## Exhibit 9

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

ABDULLAH HAYDAR,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case No. 2:16-cv-13662

AMAZON CORPORATE, LLC, a

foreign limited liability

corporation; GARRET GAW, an

individual; PETER FARICY, an

individual; JOEL MOSBY, an

individual;

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF PETER FARICY

July 28, 2017

Seattle, Washington

Reported by:

Connie Recob, CCR, RMR, CRR, CLR

CCR No. 2631

Job No. 4590

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1	APPEARANCES	
2		
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21	Also Present:	
22	Tania Grant - Videographer	
23	Charles Wright - In-house counsel	
24	at Amazon	
25	Abdullah Haydar	

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12		Jim Joudrey dated 4/2/15,	
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15	Exhibit 3	e-mail string, Bates No.	
16		AMAZON_HAYDAR_00002184	113
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18		AMAZON_HAYDAR_00002200 through	
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3	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.	
4	Exhibit 7	Marketplace Leadership OLR		
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6		Notes from Q1 2015 Marketplace	<u> </u>	
7		OLR, Bates Nos. AMAZON_HAYDAR_	00003649	
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20		Summary Form, Bates Nos.		
21		AMAZON_HAYDAR_0000413		
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24	CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY			
25	TESTIMONY ON PAGE 25 - BOUND SEPARATELY			

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Page 5
 1
                 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Friday, July 28, 2017,
 2
     at 600 University Street, Suite 3200, Seattle, Washington,
 3
     at 7:29 a.m. before Connie Recob, CCR, RMR, CRR, CLR,
     appeared PETER FARICY, the witness herein;
 5
                 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were
    had, to wit:
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                            <<<<<
 9
10
                 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Good morning. We're now
11
     on the record.
                     Today's date is July 28th, 2017.
12
     time is now 7:29 a.m. My name is Tania Grant your video
     specialist here with Connie Recob your court reporter.
13
14
     We represent Fortz Legal Support at 7125 Orchard Lake
15
     Road, Suite 308, West Bloomfield, Missouri.
16
                 MR. NACHT: Michigan.
17
                 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Michigan, sorry.
18
            This is the video recorded deposition of Peter
19
     Faricy in the matter of Abdullah Haydar v. Amazon
20
     Corporate, et al. in the U.S. District Court Eastern
     District of Michigan, Southern Division, Cause No.
21
22
     2:16-cv-13662. Our location today is 600 University
23
     Street, Suite 3200, Seattle, Washington.
24
            Will counsel please identify yourselves and state
25
     whom you represent.
```

Page 6 1 MR. NACHT: David Nacht, counsel for 2 plaintiff, Abdullah Haydar. 3 MR. WOLFF: Robert Wolff, W-O-L-F-F, counsel 4 for defendants. The next person who will walk in the 5 room will be Charles Wright, W-R-I-G-H-T, who is an attorney employed by Amazon. 6 7 MR. CHICHESTER: Michael Chichester for the 8 defendants. 9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The court reporter may now swear in the witness. 10 11 12 PETER FARICY, having been first duly sworn, 13 deposed and testified as 14 follows: 15 16 EXAMINATION 17 BY MR. NACHT: 18 Mr. Faricy, am I pronouncing your name Q. 19 correctly, sir? 20 Α. You are. 21 I'm David Nacht and we shook hands or 22 nodded just a short time ago, and we were originally 23 going to have this deposition at 9:30, I think, but we 24 moved it to 7:30 to accommodate your schedule. I want to make sure that just because we're meeting early in 25

- 1 the morning, you're alert enough that you can answer
- 2 the questions without any problem?
- 3 A. I'm alert.
- 4 Q. Great. And you're not under any medication
- 5 or have any other issues that would impair your
- 6 recollection today or your reasoning skills today?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Okay. It's your first deposition, sir?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Have you ever been a party to a lawsuit
- 11 before?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. I'm sure your counsel has told you this,
- 14 but the court reporter is taking everything you say
- down. And even though you're on video, lawyers will
- 16 use the transcript, and so in order to accurately
- 17 capture your intent, don't say "uh-huh" or shake your
- 18 head. Answer verbally with a "yes" or a "no" or a
- 19 "sure" or an "I think so" or an "I don't remember."
- The effort here is not to trick you into saying
- 21 something you don't believe to be true. The effort
- 22 here is to accurately capture what you believe to be
- 23 true. To that end, our memories, even when working
- 24 well, are not equally perfect at all times for all
- 25 questions. So there will be questions I will ask you

- 1 and you'll just know the answer off the top of your
- 2 head and you'll answer it. There will be questions I
- 3 will ask you where you're pretty sure you know the
- 4 answer, you're pretty sure you've got it and you're
- 5 trying your best to answer honestly because you're
- 6 under oath and you're participating in this process,
- 7 and so you want to let me know that you're pretty sure
- 8 you know the answer because it wouldn't be accurate to
- 9 say "I don't know." So say, "I'm pretty sure the
- 10 answer is this." Just answer it like that.
- 11 (Mr. Wright enters.)
- 12 THE WITNESS: Got it.
- 13 BY MR. NACHT:
- 14 Q. In other words, actually capture the extent
- of your memory in the answer if it's less than crystal
- 16 clear.
- 17 Also, I'm asking a mix of questions today, all
- 18 right? Some questions are designed to know what
- 19 you've -- you have a clear recollection of thinking
- 20 something, you have a clear recollection of seeing
- 21 something or hearing something or reading something,
- 22 participating in a conversation. Some questions are
- 23 more your opinion about things, and that's true in all
- 24 depositions I would say, but it's especially true in
- 25 depositions in employment law cases where we're looking

- 1 at issues of, you know, what were you thinking and how
- 2 do you think about these kinds of things and how do
- 3 other people think about these kinds of things and how
- 4 does the organization approach these kinds of things.
- 5 And so to the extent you need to provide context, I'm
- 6 going to let you provide context, okay?
- 7 A. Got it.
- 8 Q. If you need a break, ask for a break, I'll
- 9 give you a break not while a question is pending. It's
- 10 not like where in Godfather II and, you know, you're at
- 11 the senate table and I ask the question and you whisper
- 12 to your lawyer. Wait until the question is done and
- 13 then you can do that.
- 14 A. Got it.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. Got it.
- 17 MR. WOLFF: You don't have his brother from
- 18 Sicily sitting in the back row.
- MR. NACHT: All right.
- 20 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. So why do so many graduates of Brother Rice
- 22 end up running companies or in positions of great
- 23 leadership?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. What do you think?

- 1 A. I don't know.
- 2 Q. Well, what did you learn at Brother Rice --
- 3 that's the high school you attended, right?
- 4 A. It is, yeah.
- 5 Q. What did you learn at Brother Rice that you
- 6 carry with you today?
- 7 A. I don't know. I'd have to spend some time
- 8 thinking about it. Brother Rice was a -- was a
- 9 fantastic high school.
- 10 Q. Did you play a sport?
- 11 A. I did.
- 12 Q. What did you play?
- 13 A. I played a lot of different sports.
- Q. Okay. What were you best at?
- 15 A. Lacrosse.
- 16 Q. And not good enough to play lacrosse at
- 17 Michigan State?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And --
- 20 A. Possibly not good enough to play lacrosse
- 21 at Brother Rice.
- Q. I imagine it was a serious lacrosse team?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And you're a competitive guy, you have to
- 25 be in order to achieve what you've achieved; is that

- 1 fair?
- 2 A. I think it's accurate to say I'm
- 3 competitive, yes.
- 4 Q. And -- but you've publicly stated fairly
- 5 recently that one of the things that you really love
- 6 about working for Amazon is that the company is run by
- 7 leadership principles?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And you were talking in the speech I
- 10 listened to last night on YouTube about the leadership
- 11 principle of -- of customer satisfaction but I'm not
- 12 saying it right. What --
- 13 A. Customer obsession.
- 14 Q. Customer obsession?
- 15 A. Obsession, yeah.
- Q. But I was wondering when I heard you say
- 17 that, I was listening to you say that and there was a
- 18 way in which you said it that I didn't think you were
- 19 just making a sales pitch for Amazon. I -- what I
- 20 thought I heard in your voice was that there was
- 21 something about principles that resonated with you and
- 22 was important to you.
- 23 Is that fair?
- A. That's fair.
- Q. And so I want to go back to my first

- 1 question about Brother Rice and I want to ask you,
- 2 what -- what principles did you take coming out of your
- 3 family and coming out of your high school education
- 4 that you carry with you today that -- for work?
- 5 A. It's -- I don't have an answer for you. I
- 6 don't know. I mean, I'd have to spend some time
- 7 thinking about it. My high school days would be a
- 8 long time ago, so I'd have to go back and think about
- 9 that.
- 10 Q. Do you -- I mean, integrity certainly
- 11 counts, right?
- 12 A. Integrity is very important.
- 13 Q. And integrity is not a leadership principle
- 14 at Amazon, right?
- 15 A. There's not a leadership principle named
- 16 integrity, but I think many of the leadership
- 17 principles imply integrity of the work we do.
- 18 Q. Okay. Why don't you elaborate?
- 19 A. I'm sorry. What's the question?
- Q. Why don't you elaborate on your last
- 21 answer?
- 22 A. Could you give me a more specific question
- 23 for me to answer?
- Q. Yeah. Which leadership principles do you
- 25 believe imply integrity?

- 1 A. Customer obsession.
- 2 Q. Okay. How?
- 3 A. We -- we have built a company that cares
- 4 about what customers need first over all other needs.
- 5 I view that as a very high integrity principle and I
- 6 view it as being a very different way to organize and
- 7 lead than other organizations I see around the world.
- 8 Q. Any other leadership principles imply
- 9 integrity?
- 10 A. I think there's probably some, yeah.
- 11 Q. Can you name any?
- 12 A. Insist on high standards.
- Q. Okay. How is that linked to integrity?
- 14 A. It's linked to integrity in the sense of
- 15 we expect people at all times to hold themselves to
- 16 high standards, to hold their teams to high standards
- 17 and to hold their colleagues to high standards.
- 18 Q. Do you believe that the direct reports
- 19 you've had reporting to you have integrity?
- 20 A. Absolutely.
- Q. And the -- so Mr. Joudrey, Joudrey?
- 22 A. Joudrey.
- Q. Joudrey?
- 24 A. Jim Joudrey, yes.
- Q. Jim Joudrey. He has integrity?

- 1 A. I believe Jim Joudrey has integrity.
- 2 Q. I want you to tell me about the Detroit
- 3 office. Was that your idea to have a Detroit office?
- 4 A. It was.
- 5 Q. You wanted to give back?
- 6 A. No. I believe the State of Michigan and
- 7 the City of Detroit have an enormous amount of talent,
- 8 and I think it's in the best interest of Amazon in
- 9 order to serve our customers better to build remote
- 10 dev centers where most of the talent is, and I believe
- 11 there's an enormous amount of talent in the State of
- 12 Michigan.
- Q. And you're very involved in the State of
- 14 Michigan even as you live in the State of Washington?
- 15 A. Correct.
- Q. You've given service to Michigan State
- 17 University as an alum doing fundraising, right?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. You currently give service to the Ross
- 20 School of Business at the University of Michigan?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- Q. Does your mother reside in Michigan?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Do you have siblings who reside in
- 25 Michigan?

- 1 A. I do.
- 2 Q. And you attended high school, college and
- 3 graduate school in Michigan?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. You also worked for Ford, right?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. When you worked for McKinsey, was that out
- 8 of the Detroit office or somewhere else?
- 9 A. I opened up the McKinsey Detroit office,
- 10 but when I worked for McKinsey, to answer your
- 11 question, it was in Cleveland, Stockholm, Sweden and
- 12 then I opened up the office in Detroit.
- 13 Q. And you worked for -- for Borders in Ann
- 14 Arbor?
- 15 A. Correct.
- Q. When you left Borders, what year was that?
- 17 A. 2005 or '6. I don't remember the exact
- 18 year. Roughly around that time.
- 19 Q. Well, did you go directly to Amazon?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have a noncompete agreement with
- 22 Borders?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection. Relevance.
- You can answer. You can answer.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- Q. We have a dynamic where it's his job to say
- 2 certain things for the record, but he'll expect you to
- 3 answer the question and to stay focused on remembering
- 4 what the question is. If he doesn't want you to
- 5 answer, he will -- he will instruct you not to answer.
- 6 A. Can you repeat the question?
- 7 Q. Sure. And I'm explaining that because he's
- 8 going to do that a fair amount and I want you to
- 9 remember the question. You don't need to worry about
- 10 his objection just whether he tells you not to answer.
- The question is: Did you have a noncompete
- 12 agreement when you were at Borders?
- 13 A. I don't remember.
- Q. Did you consult with counsel when you got
- 15 the offer from Amazon about your obligations to
- 16 Borders?
- 17 A. I don't remember.
- 18 Q. Take a minute or two. Try to remember.
- 19 You're under oath. Take a minute or two. You've got a
- 20 real good memory. You're a serious person.
- Did you have a noncompete agreement when you
- 22 were at Borders?
- 23 A. I don't remember if I had a noncompete
- 24 agreement. I've answered that question already.
- Q. What was your job at Borders?

- 1 A. Responsible for the music and movies
- 2 business.
- 3 Q. And when you went to Amazon, what was your
- 4 first job?
- 5 A. Responsible for the music business.
- Q. You helped to put Borders out of business
- 7 with your work at Amazon, fair?
- 8 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Incorrect.
- 10 BY MR. NACHT:
- 11 Q. I'm sorry?
- 12 A. That's incorrect.
- Q. Why is that incorrect?
- 14 A. Because that's totally incorrect.
- 15 Q. How so?
- 16 A. I don't --
- 17 Q. The press --
- 18 A. I don't know how --
- 19 Q. The press has -- the press accounts of a
- 20 failure of Borders are all about Amazon beating
- 21 Borders. Is that not true?
- 22 A. That's not true. I've read a lot of
- 23 different articles, and I think your characterization
- 24 is incorrect.
- Q. Okay. So Amazon was a minor factor in

- 1 Borders going out of business?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- 3 Q. You have an opinion?
- 4 A. I don't have an opinion here. I'm focused
- 5 on the customers that I serve and I'm focused on the
- 6 company that I'm with. I don't have an opinion on how
- 7 other competitors perform.
- 8 Q. You spend time doing things outside of work
- 9 right now and in the last, say, 2013, 2014, 2015, let's
- 10 focus on those three years, okay?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Thank you. You have a family?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. You coach your kid's church basketball
- 15 team?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. I want you to know I spent all of one hour
- on the web last night and that's where I come up with
- 19 these questions. The web is an amazing thing.
- You must travel a lot for work, don't you?
- 21 A. I do travel some.
- Q. I mean, I know you're a former McKinsey
- 23 guy, so when I say "travel a lot," it's nothing
- 24 compared to working at a place like McKinsey, fair?
- 25 A. I think -- I think the McKinsey travel

- 1 was -- was more travel than the travel I've had at
- 2 Amazon, yes, that's fair.
- 3 Q. How many -- how many weeks a year in your
- 4 current job or the job you had in 2013 through 2015 are
- 5 you traveling?
- 6 MR. WOLFF: Which -- which time period do you
- 7 want him to answer?
- 8 MR. NACHT: 2013 to 2015.
- 9 THE WITNESS: How many weeks total over that
- 10 three-year period?
- 11 BY MR. NACHT:
- 12 Q. Right.
- 13 A. I don't know.
- 14 Q. Ballpark. Give us your best estimate.
- 15 You're the one doing it. We can subpoen a your
- 16 calendars, but I mean, just -- I just want your best
- 17 estimate.
- 18 A. Nine weeks.
- 19 Q. Okay. And that's traveling for work?
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. You also travel to Michigan for your
- 22 obligations with the University of Michigan?
- 23 A. Can you be more specific?
- Q. Sure. You visited Michigan -- let's just
- 25 say you visited Michigan for a variety of purposes

- 1 involving University of Michigan, Michigan State and
- 2 family obligations during that time period?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And how many additional weeks on top of the
- 5 nine weeks that you traveled would you say was Michigan
- 6 travel time for those three reasons during those years?
- 7 A. I was counting the Michigan travel for
- 8 business as part of that nine weeks.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. So when I travel to Michigan, it's usually
- 11 for recruiting at University of Michigan and Michigan
- 12 State, and I usually tie in those events to any board
- obligations or work I'm doing for either school.
- Q. What about family obligations in Michigan
- during 2014, 2015? Those are probably more extensive I
- 16 imagine.
- 17 A. We probably traveled to Michigan as a
- 18 family one week per year each of those years.
- 19 Q. On top of the nine weeks?
- 20 A. On top of the total nine weeks of travel,
- 21 yes. Total nine weeks is over three years, and the
- 22 one week is per year. So three weeks total over the
- 23 three years.
- Q. Now, I didn't understand. I'm sorry. You
- 25 travel -- you only -- you're only away from Seattle

- 1 three weeks a year or three weeks a year in Michigan?
- 2 A. No. I said -- you asked me to estimate
- 3 the number of weeks I traveled for business over those
- 4 three years, and I gave you an estimate of nine weeks.
- 5 Q. So you meant only three weeks per year?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. I see. And how many weeks vacation do you
- 8 take in that time period?
- 9 A. I don't know. A couple.
- 10 Q. Okay. So that's, like, five weeks, fair?
- 11 A. Roughly, yes.
- 12 Q. You run the Marketplace organization and
- you did during 2013 through 2015?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. You have some other obligations for Amazon
- 16 as well these days?
- 17 A. I'm sorry. Can you be more specific?
- 18 Q. I actually can't because I don't do your
- 19 job.
- 20 A. Okay.
- Q. So I don't know what your job is.
- 22 A. No, I still lead the worldwide Marketplace
- 23 business for Amazon.
- Q. Okay. And do you have other obligations
- 25 besides running that business as part of your job for

- 1 Amazon sitting on some sort of committees or having
- 2 other obligations? You wear other hats in the company?
- 3 A. You know, during that time I would have
- 4 been part of the consumer leadership group, but other
- 5 than that, I can't think of any other obligations.
- 6 Q. Okay. Did you have extra time for travel
- 7 with your wife or children for fun, for family fun
- 8 travel, European trips or whatever, Asian trips during
- 9 that three-year period?
- 10 A. You're asking did I travel with my family
- 11 during that three-year period, yes, I did travel with
- 12 my family during that three-year period.
- 13 Q. And do you take any one- or two-week trips
- 14 abroad?
- 15 A. We -- we probably did, yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. And maybe you were working on some
- of those and maybe you weren't. Were you or were they
- 18 just pure family time?
- 19 A. I -- I am always auditing and monitoring
- 20 the health and well-being of our business even when
- 21 I'm on vacation with my family.
- Q. Okay. And the business that you're in
- 23 charge of is quite large. Can you give us -- what's
- 24 the revenue of Marketplace?
- 25 A. We don't share any of the revenue data

- 1 externally. The best metric I could give you is that
- 2 we talk about the Marketplace business selling almost
- 3 50 percent of the units sold on Amazon.
- 4 Q. Without -- I don't need to know precise
- 5 numbers for my purposes of this lawsuit or anything
- 6 which would get in the way of Amazon's competitive
- 7 issues.
- It is a publicly traded company, correct?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And you run a major unit of a publicly
- 11 traded company. Is it more than \$100 billion worth of
- 12 revenue?
- MR. WOLFF: I'm -- I'm going to designate
- 14 this part of the --
- MR. NACHT: Record as protective.
- MR. WOLFF: As protected and confidential,
- 17 and I'm not sure a division's revenue is -- is public
- 18 record. I don't know if this is trade secret stuff or
- 19 not.
- THE WITNESS: It is trade secret.
- 21 MR. NACHT: Let's agree to designate it as
- 22 protected, and I'm not looking for a precise number. I'm
- 23 just looking for -- for an order of magnitude, sir.
- MR. WOLFF: Can we talk about this without
- 25 plaintiff in the room? Is that permissible, the revenue

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Page 24
     information?
 1
 2
                  MR. NACHT: Yes.
 3
                        (Mr. Haydar exits.)
     (The following testimony on Page 25 is Confidential -
 4
     Attorneys' Eyes Only and bound under separate cover.)
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- 1 (Non-Confidential testimony resumes.)
- 2 BY MR. NACHT:
- 3 Q. And how many people do you supervise in
- 4 Marketplace? And when I say "supervise," I don't mean
- 5 directly. I mean the full kit, cat and caboodle?
- 6 MR. NACHT: Are we still protected?
- 7 MR. WOLFF: No, Abdullah can come back in.
- 8 And I guess we need time frame for number of employees.
- 9 MR. NACHT: Sure. Let's --
- 10 MR. WOLFF: I was assuming you were asking at
- 11 present.
- MR. NACHT: All right. Let's keep him out
- 13 for a little bit.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Sorry. Number of employees on
- 15 my current team?
- 16 BY MR. NACHT:
- 17 Q. Right. How about today?
- 18 A. Approximately 18,000.
- 19 Q. And in 2013, how many, sir?
- 20 A. Gosh, I am not going to be able to give
- 21 you an accurate number there. Approximately 7,000.
- Q. Okay. Plus or minus a thousand?
- 23 A. Yeah, those numbers, I don't feel
- 24 confident that those numbers are accurate, but those
- 25 are probably ballpark correct.

- 1 Q. And ballpark in the range that we're
- 2 discussing. I mean, it's one thing to have a ballpark
- 3 of 100 billion, right? If we're talking about a
- 4 ballpark of 13,000 or a ballpark of 7,000 --
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. -- then I assume your estimate is we're
- 7 talking give or take a thousand or give or take 1,500?
- 8 Just an outer limit for a 95th percent two standard
- 9 deviations confidence level.
- 10 A. I think plus or minus a couple thousand
- 11 for both of those numbers would be -- would be fair.
- 12 Q. Okay. And in 2013 approximately how many
- 13 people were L7 or higher?
- MR. WOLFF: In Marketplace?
- 15 BY MR. NACHT:
- 16 Q. Yeah, underneath you, sir.
- 17 A. Gosh, I have no idea.
- 18 Q. Well, you must have a better idea than I
- 19 would, so...
- 20 A. I don't actually have a very good idea on
- 21 that number. I mean...
- 22 Q. More than 100?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. And in 2015 was it more than 100?
- A. I don't know.

- 1 Q. Okay. Diversity is not a leadership
- 2 principle, right?
- 3 A. There is not a leadership principle that's
- 4 called diversity, that's correct.
- 5 Q. Well, are there any leadership principles
- 6 that incorporate the concept of diversity?
- 7 A. I believe so. I think the leadership
- 8 principles focus on the contribution that you make as
- 9 a person which is not about what school you went to.
- 10 It's really about the contribution that you make, and
- 11 I think those -- those leadership principles are
- 12 really strongly in line with creating a company and an
- 13 atmosphere that supports and values diversity.
- Q. You don't post positions, job openings, for
- 15 L8, L10, correct?
- 16 A. Incorrect. We post job openings, my
- 17 understanding is unless the actual title of the job
- 18 opening would reveal a confidential new business that
- 19 we plan to launch. So we do post job openings for L7,
- 20 L8 and possibly for -- possibly for L10. I'm not sure
- 21 on L10.
- Q. And that would certainly be true for
- 23 Detroit?
- A. I don't -- we treat all -- we treat all of
- 25 our offices and whatever the policies are on job

- 1 postings, we would treat all the offices the same.
- 2 Q. You're not guessing about this, you know
- 3 this, right?
- A. I don't -- I don't -- I could not repeat
- 5 what the policy is, but I see that we post these jobs
- 6 for jobs that are available regularly on the
- 7 Amazon.com job site.
- 8 Q. What is an OLR?
- 9 A. It's a twice a year process to re- --
- 10 Q. I'm sorry.
- MR. NACHT: Are we off -- we've been out of
- 12 the protected, right?
- MR. WOLFF: Yes.
- 14 BY MR. NACHT:
- 15 Q. Thank you.
- 16 A. It's a twice a year process to review the
- 17 talent across our teams.
- Q. Organizational leadership review?
- 19 A. An organizational leadership review would
- 20 be an accurate description, yes.
- O. Is that what OLR stands for?
- 22 A. I don't remember.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 MR. WOLFF: It sounds familiar.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. And the OLRs provide an opportunity for
- 2 your direct reports to give you information about their
- 3 direct reports?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. And you defer to your subordinates'
- 6 assessment of people for the most part, correct?
- 7 A. Can you repeat the question? I'm sorry.
- 8 To make sure I clarify.
- 9 MR. NACHT: Can you repeat the question to
- 10 the witness, please?
- 11 (Question on Page 29, Lines 5
- 12 through 6, read by the
- reporter.)
- 14 THE WITNESS: Can you be more specific about
- 15 "for the most part"?
- 16 BY MR. NACHT:
- 17 Q. No. I'd like an answer to the question.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Occasionally you opine about someone who's
- 20 below your direct report?
- 21 A. That's incorrect. I participate in people
- 22 reviews for the people who I've had sufficient
- 23 experience with to assess their performance.
- Q. Was Abdullah Haydar such a person?
- 25 A. I did not have sufficient experience to

- 1 judge Abdullah Haydar's performance.
- 2 Q. At any time in 2013, 2014 or 2015?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And by judging his performance that would
- 5 be an evaluation of his achievement of goals and his
- 6 performance on the leadership principles?
- 7 A. I would have relied upon his manager to
- 8 develop the rating that assessed his performance
- 9 against his goals, his performance against our
- 10 leadership principles, and identify his growth
- 11 potential within Amazon and then develop his overall
- 12 rating within Amazon.
- 13 Q. He was not someone you focused on?
- 14 A. Can you be more specific on that?
- 15 Q. Well, I mean, was there ever a time when
- 16 you focused on Abdullah Haydar?
- 17 A. Abdullah Haydar was never a person who I
- 18 evaluated. He never was a direct report. He was
- 19 always two to three layers down in the organization,
- 20 so those people who he worked for evaluated his
- 21 performance.
- 22 Q. Your human resources counterpart during
- 23 that time frame was that Madonna Cole, Michael Beary,
- 24 who was it?
- 25 A. We had a couple of HR partners and I

- 1 couldn't pinpoint which time period for which.
- 2 Q. So at some point was Madonna Cole your HR
- 3 counterpart or not?
- 4 A. Madonna Cole was involved with HR for my
- 5 team along with many other teams during that time
- 6 period, and I couldn't -- I couldn't give you the
- 7 exact years that she was doing that, but she was
- 8 involved, yes.
- 9 Q. And Shelly Cerio, is -- she was dealing
- 10 more with Mr. Gunningham, correct?
- 11 A. No, that's incorrect.
- 12 Q. Okay. Tell me about your relationship with
- 13 Ms. Cerio on a weekly or monthly basis.
- MR. WOLFF: Same time frame?
- MR. NACHT: Yes.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Shelly Cerio was Madonna Cole's
- 17 boss, so she had the same role but for a much larger
- 18 organization.
- 19 BY MR. NACHT:
- 20 Q. Shelly Cerio was the HR person for the
- 21 whole consumer group?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. And Madonna Cole was underneath Shelly as
- 24 the HR counterpart for Marketplace and a few other
- 25 groups within consumers?

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. And she was your counterpart with regard to
- 3 Marketplace, correct?
- 4 A. Incorrect.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. She had -- she would have had people who
- 7 worked for her whose responsibility was Marketplace.
- 8 Q. Was Simmi your counterpart?
- 9 A. For some period of time, yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. What is her last name? It's
- 11 hyphenated.
- 12 A. I don't know. I'm going to have to look
- 13 it up.
- Q. Okay. And how often would you meet with
- 15 Simmi when she was your HR counterpart in person?
- 16 A. Every two to three weeks.
- 17 Q. And how often would you have e-mail
- 18 interaction with her?
- 19 A. If I were to guess, weekly.
- Q. I don't want to guess. Would you say
- 21 that's a fair estimate?
- 22 A. I would say that's a fair estimate.
- Q. Okay. I really don't want you to guess?
- 24 A. Yeah.
- Q. But I do want your fair estimates and I

- 1 want you to -- as I said at the beginning of the
- 2 deposition --
- 3 A. Got it.
- 4 Q. -- I'm not trying to trick you into saying
- 5 you're absolutely sure about something if it's just a
- 6 best estimate.
- 7 Who else besides Simmi played the role of HR
- 8 counterpart to you in 2013, 2014 and 2015?
- 9 A. Mike Beary.
- 10 Q. Is there anyone else or just those two?
- 11 A. I believe just those two.
- 12 Q. During the OLR, would the HR person be in
- 13 the room?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. So who's in the room?
- 16 A. For -- there's multiple OLRs across my
- 17 team. From my OLR, it would have been myself, my
- 18 direct reports and two or three or four
- 19 representatives from the HR team.
- Q. Is OLR an Amazon invention or is that
- 21 something that you've seen in other organizations?
- 22 A. Having a people review process is very
- 23 common.
- Q. Tell me about the advantages of the OLR
- 25 process? Let me put it this way: I'm going to ask you

- 1 a series of questions. Amazon is an incredibly
- 2 successful, rapidly growing company; fair statement?
- 3 A. I believe that others view us as a
- 4 successful and rapidly growing company, yes.
- 5 Q. Well, don't you view it that way? I mean,
- 6 I realize that you don't want to brag, but I mean, it
- 7 seems every week there's news about Amazon's
- 8 achievements in the capitalist Marketplace.
- 9 A. I'm grateful to be part of Amazon. I love
- 10 Amazon.
- 11 Q. Okay. Is it fair to say that part of what
- 12 makes Amazon successful is big thoughts, big ideas?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Is it fair to say that part of what makes
- 15 Amazon successful is a particular kind of corporate
- 16 culture that involves certain processes? I'm going to
- 17 be very vague like that because we're going to get into
- 18 them.
- 19 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 20 If -- if you can answer that question, go ahead.
- 21 THE WITNESS: It seems -- it does seem rather
- 22 broad, I agree with you. Is there a way to make it more
- 23 specific so I can give you an answer?
- 24 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. Well, we're going to get into it. But I

- 1 mean, do you feel like the corporate culture of Amazon
- 2 contributes to its success?
- 3 A. I do -- I do believe our leadership
- 4 principles which have formed our corporate culture
- 5 absolutely have had an impact on our success, yes.
- 6 Q. And do you believe that your processes of
- 7 how you manage people including processes such as OLRs
- 8 and other processes contribute to that culture?
- 9 MR. WOLFF: Objection to "other processes."
- But you can answer whether the OLR process
- 11 contributes.
- 12 THE WITNESS: I believe the OLR process does
- 13 contribute to helping us develop a strong team.
- 14 BY MR. NACHT:
- 15 Q. Okay. Let's talk about the OLR process and
- 16 how it -- what advantages it has. I mean, you have a
- 17 pretty wide breadth of business experience. You
- 18 haven't worked for that many companies, but you've
- 19 worked for real leader companies and you have a
- 20 position where you get a lot of exposure through to
- 21 companies in your job at Amazon and in your work for
- 22 the University of Michigan. You have a sense of the
- 23 pulse of a lot of what's going on out there in the
- 24 marketplace. And you don't need to comment. That's a
- 25 very broad statement, but I believe it to be true that

- 1 you're a very knowledgeable guy. I want your
- 2 perspective on advantages that the OLR process brings.
- 3 A. Leading people requires that you care
- 4 about those people and their careers and their
- 5 well-being, and a process like OLR allows leaders to
- 6 focus on how are the people on our team performing and
- 7 what is it that we can do to help them be successful
- 8 at Amazon, and I think that's an important process.
- 9 It's important from the leadership point of
- 10 view and I think it's very important for the people on
- 11 our teams to know that we spend dedicated time
- 12 thinking about their health, well-being and their
- 13 career.
- Q. Does the OLR process provide a feedback
- 15 mechanism for participants?
- 16 A. I'm sorry. Could you clarify that?
- 17 Q. Well, there are people in the room and then
- 18 there are people who are not in the room, right?
- 19 A. There are people in the room for the OLR,
- 20 correct.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. And there's lots of people not in the room
- 23 in the OLR, that is correct.
- Q. Right. And several billion of them in
- 25 fact?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 MR. WOLFF: They're everywhere.
- 3 MR. NACHT: They're everywhere.
- 4 (Laughter.)
- 5 BY MR. NACHT:
- 6 Q. The people who are in the room are getting
- 7 direct feedback from each other or from you. Is it an
- 8 interactive process or is it a top-down process?
- 9 A. It's an interactive process.
- 10 Q. Part of the whole leadership principle of
- 11 being vocally self-critical is to encourage people to
- 12 share their misses as well as their hits in order for
- 13 the group collectively to learn and for them
- 14 individually to learn so that continuous improvement
- 15 can occur, fair?
- 16 A. Fair.
- 17 Q. And so the OLR is a process by which people
- 18 are in the room and knowledge is being created in order
- 19 to improve the organization going forward, right?
- 20 A. When you say "knowledge is being created
- 21 to improve the organization," I think we are
- 22 identifying actions that we believe will be helpful to
- 23 improve our performance and improve our team, yes.
- Q. And you're not just identifying actions,
- 25 you're making assessments about people and are you also

- 1 making assessments about projects in the OLR or not?
- 2 A. No, we don't -- we don't assess projects
- 3 and programs in the OLR, and the assessment of people
- 4 is done prior to the OLR. The OLR is a discussion of
- 5 the output of the performance evaluations that come
- 6 into that day.
- 7 Q. So we have performance evaluations that are
- 8 drafted prior to the OLR?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. The OLR is a conversation in which that
- 11 data is analyzed?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. And --
- 14 A. But maybe more accurately, we focus on the
- 15 people who are top performers to make sure we
- 16 understand how we can be helpful to them and give them
- 17 challenging work. We focus on people who are
- 18 struggling and we focus on what is it that we can do
- 19 to help them become successful, and then we focus on
- 20 promotions. Those are the three primary areas.
- 21 Q. Now, there is a formal annual performance
- 22 evaluation that occurs in the spring, early spring,
- 23 late winter of the preceding calendar year; is that
- 24 fair?
- 25 A. No. The formal evaluation -- that's

- 1 incorrect. The formal evaluation process begins late
- 2 fourth quarter and continues into the beginning of the
- 3 first quarter and the perform -- the performance
- 4 reviews would be drafted and brought in with complete
- 5 ratings and reviews during the OLRs during February.
- 6 Q. There are charts that are posted, at least
- 7 in the time frame of 2013 to 2015, which link ratings
- 8 on achieving goals and satisfying leadership principles
- 9 resulting in a cumulative evaluation of a person into a
- 10 category, correct?
- 11 A. That is correct, and the only thing that's
- 12 missing is that the manager also assesses the
- employee's growth potential as well. So it's actually
- 14 three metrics during that time period that we would
- 15 have taken a look at.
- 16 Q. Could you give me a rough drawing of that
- 17 chart that was routinely posted during that time
- 18 period?
- 19 A. Can you be a little bit more specific
- 20 about the chart?
- Q. Sure, just that lists level of goal with
- 22 the outcome for the person.
- 23 A. That's not enough information for me to
- 24 draw the chart you may have in mind.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 MR. WOLFF: And it's not -- I'm not sure he's
- 2 acknowledged that there was a chart that was routinely
- 3 posted. Maybe there was.
- 4 THE WITNESS: No, I don't -- I don't know
- 5 what you're referring to.
- 6 BY MR. NACHT:
- 7 Q. Okay. Is there a chart -- forget about the
- 8 chart for a second. Just is there a rubric, a metric?
- 9 I mean, clearly you were just talking about something.
- 10 A. Yes. So there was --
- 11 Q. So what were you talking about?
- 12 A. There was a performance rating for each
- 13 employee that was brought into that meeting.
- 14 Q. Okay. And --
- 15 A. The performance rating includes the
- 16 performance against their goals.
- 17 Q. Yes, could you please just -- just write
- 18 out the different levels for performance against goals?
- 19 A. What the titles of the levels were?
- Q. Yeah. There aren't that many, right?
- A. (Witness complies.)
- Q. And on the same page on the right side,
- 23 could you put the very big categories that are
- 24 cumulative reviews for people, right? What is it, top
- 25 tier and then...?

- A. Well, that's -- you're -- you're -- that's
- 2 an incomplete characterization --
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. -- of the process.
- 5 Q. Okay. So I don't -- but you've got those
- 6 categories in your head, right? You can put those. I
- 7 didn't know if you had the other stuff that you were
- 8 able to put down.
- 9 A. The leadership writings?
- 10 Q. Yeah.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. You can?
- 13 A. I can.
- Q. Oh, great. Thanks.
- 15 A. (Witness complies.)
- Q. And at the -- what is the word you used?
- 17 Did you say "metric"? I don't want to put words in
- 18 your mouth. What is -- I said chart, you said no, not
- 19 a chart. What are you thinking? What's the word?
- 20 A. You have to be more specific.
- MR. WOLFF: You're asking him what you would
- 22 call the information that he's documenting on --
- MR. NACHT: Right.
- MR. WOLFF: -- on the sheet?
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. There -- people come in and there's a
- 2 rubric, an algorithm seems too strong?
- 3 A. Algorithm is incorrect. I don't know what
- 4 rubric means.
- 5 People come in with leadership, with
- 6 performance ratings, leadership ratings, an overall
- 7 rating and a growth potential rating for each of the
- 8 people on their team.
- 9 Q. Okay. And what are the over -- can you put
- 10 the overall ratings on the piece of paper, please?
- 11 A. (Witness complies.) I may have the words
- 12 wrong, but the -- this is my best recollection of the
- 13 words tied to these buckets.
- Q. Okay. And you have the concepts right,
- 15 correct?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. And so on the upper left-hand corner from
- 18 your perspective, those are goals?
- 19 A. This is your performance against your --
- 20 your goals, correct.
- Q. Okay. Could you just write "performance
- 22 against goals" above that?
- 23 A. (Witness complies.)
- Q. And in the upper right-hand corner, what's
- 25 that?

- 1 A. This is your performance against our
- 2 leadership principles.
- 3 Q. Okay. Did you write "leadership
- 4 principles" there?
- 5 A. I wrote "leadership ratings."
- 6 Q. Okay. And in the bottom left-hand corner
- 7 or sort of the middle left-hand corner, what's that?
- 8 A. I wrote down "overall ratings."
- 9 Q. Okay. And the other thing is growth
- 10 potential?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. And are those different categories?
- 13 A. They are.
- Q. Do you remember those?
- 15 A. I do.
- 16 Q. Oh, could you add those, please.
- 17 A. (Witness complies.)
- Q. When the OLR is going on, is there a
- 19 document which contains this information, words or
- 20 similar words about each person being discussed?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. Are there --
- MR. WOLFF: Can I point out for the record
- 24 that the written documents are probably the best evidence
- 25 of this, but with that said, go ahead.

Case 2:16-cv-13662-LJM-SDD ECF No. 62-46 filed 12/28/17 PageID.3249 Page 45 of Page 45 BY MR. NACHT: 1 2 And are there additional concepts captured Ο. besides those? 3 Can you be more specific? 4 5 Well, is there anything else on the piece of paper besides giving a number or a comment about 6 7 each of those criteria with a particular person? 8 Α. No. 9 Q. Okay. Let's make this Exhibit 1. 10 (Exhibit No. 1 marked for identification.) 11 12 BY MR. NACHT: Now, under performance ratings you wrote 13 Ο. outstanding, exceeds, achieves and does not meet, 14 15 correct? 16 Α. Correct. 17 MR. WOLFF: Can we take a quick break and 18 make a copy of that if you're going to be discussing it? 19 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off record. The time is 8:23 a.m. 20 21 (Recess 8:23-8:32.) 22 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the 23 record. The time is 8:32 a.m.

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- 1 EXAMINATION (Continuing)
- 2 BY MR. NACHT:
- 3 Q. Going back to integrity not being an
- 4 explicit leadership principle, is integrity
- 5 sufficiently important that a lack of integrity would
- 6 mean that someone is not outstanding?
- 7 MR. WOLFF: Objection. Calls for
- 8 speculation.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Can you make your question more
- 10 specific?
- 11 BY MR. NACHT:
- 12 Q. Yes. If you thought that a manager who was
- 13 an L7 or an L8 showed a lack of integrity, would that
- 14 prevent them from being rated as outstanding?
- 15 A. I would need more information.
- 16 Q. What kind of information would you need?
- 17 A. I would need information about the facts
- 18 of the question about integrity.
- 19 Q. So does it matter how important the issue
- 20 is that they're showing a lack of integrity?
- 21 A. I don't know. I would need more
- 22 specifics.
- Q. Well, you're running an organization.
- 24 Leadership principles govern the organization?
- 25 A. Leadership principles govern how we run

- 1 Amazon, correct.
- 2 Q. Integrity is not listed, but you've said
- 3 you think it's important anyway, right?
- 4 A. I said I do believe integrity is important
- 5 and I do believe integrity is woven throughout the
- 6 leadership principles.
- 7 Q. And I'm trying to connect a lack of
- 8 integrity with evaluation. So would -- would the
- 9 performance ratings -- are performance ratings
- 10 irrelevant to integrity unless the integrity has to do
- 11 with lying about whether you've achieved your goals?
- 12 In other words, would we look at it rather under the
- 13 leadership ratings rather than the performance ratings,
- 14 the integrity issue?
- 15 A. I don't think your question is specific
- 16 enough that it could be answered. I think we would --
- 17 we would not tolerate people lying about their
- 18 performance if that was your specific question.
- 19 Q. Okay. What about lying about things that
- 20 they're doing that are in response to common
- 21 understandings or directives?
- 22 A. It's too ambiguous. You need to give me a
- 23 more specific question.
- Q. Okay. So as you sit here, can you think of
- 25 anyone who achieved an achieve on performance ratings

- 1 or higher?
- 2 MR. WOLFF: Can he think of any Amazon
- 3 employee who ever?
- 4 BY MR. NACHT:
- 5 Q. Of L7 or higher who hit at least an
- 6 achieves on performance ratings --
- 7 A. Is that your question? Sorry. You're
- 8 building.
- 9 Q. I'm continuing.
- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. -- and resulted in -- what did you write
- 12 here?
- 13 A. Needs improvement, but I may have the name
- 14 wrong but it's the bucket of --
- 15 O. Is that least effective?
- 16 A. Least effective, sorry. I believe it's
- 17 called least effective, yeah.
- 18 Q. Okay. So where you wrote needs improvement
- 19 under overall ratings it's -- in the official parlance,
- 20 it's least effective?
- 21 A. I believe that's correct.
- 22 O. Excuse me.
- THE WITNESS: Can I borrow your pen for a
- 24 second?
- MR. WOLFF: Yeah, absolutely.

- 1 BY MR. NACHT:
- 2 Q. So you are now crossing out on Exhibit 1
- 3 "needs improvement" and writing in "least effective"?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. So my question is: Can you think of anyone
- 6 who's an L7 or higher ever who's hit achieves in
- 7 performance ratings but been given a review of least
- 8 effective?
- 9 A. You're asking just about their performance
- 10 rating not about their leadership rating not about
- 11 their growth potential and then you're asking if they
- 12 had achieves or higher and also had a least effective
- 13 overall rating?
- 14 Q. Yes.
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And who?
- 17 A. Abdullah.
- 18 Q. Anyone else?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Who?
- 21 A. There's other people on our team. There's
- other people on our team who've had those same
- 23 ratings.
- Q. As you sit here today, can you think of
- 25 them?

Page 50 1 I can think of someone, yes. Α. 2 Q. Who? Nick Tawar. 3 Α. Spell his last name. 4 Ο. 5 Α. T-A-W-A-R. 6 Q. Where is he? 7 Α. He's no longer with Amazon. I don't know where he's at. 8 9 Quit or fired? Ο. I don't remember the circumstances of his Α. 10 11 departure. 12 Q. What year? Α. 2014 to '16 is what I remember, but I may 13 be off a year in either direction. 14 15 Q. Was he in Seattle? 16 Α. Yes. 17 Q. Who was his manager? 18 Α. Peeyush Nahar. 19 What was the concern with Tawar, if you 0. 20 remember? 21 Poor listening, disrespectful, inability Α. to work with others, unproductive is what I recall 22 23 from memory, but I... 24 Q. And Mr. Tawar was at what level?

25

Level 8.

Α.

- 1 Q. Is there anyone else that you can identify
- 2 who had an achieves or higher on performance ratings
- 3 but was given a least effective overall rating?
- 4 A. Not that I remember off the top of my
- 5 head.
- 6 Q. It's relatively unusual, right?
- 7 A. Can you be more specific on "relatively
- 8 unusual"?
- 9 Q. Sure. Most people who do not meet their
- 10 performance ratings presumably are least effective,
- 11 right?
- 12 A. I'm sorry. Can you restate that again?
- 13 Most people who do not meet their performance ratings
- 14 are least effective?
- 15 Q. I would presume, right?
- 16 A. I don't know the facts on it, but yes, I
- 17 would say if you don't meet your performance ratings
- 18 it seems likely you would be least effective, but you
- 19 could also achieve your performance ratings and be
- 20 least effective.
- Q. Right.
- 22 A. Both will possible. Because it depends on
- 23 the leadership rating and the growth potential as we
- 24 talked about.
- Q. Sure. Now, there are a whole bunch of

Page 52 different leadership ratings, right? 1 I'm not sure what you mean by a "whole 2 Α. bunch of different." 3 MR. WOLFF: You mean principles? 4 5 BY MR. NACHT: 6 Q. Principles, the principles. Leadership 7 principles, how many of them are there? I don't remember offhand. 8 Α. 9 Q. There is customer obsession? 10 Α. Correct. 11 Q. Ownership? 12 Α. Correct. 13 Invent and simplify? Q. 14 Α. Correct. 15 Are right a lot? Q. 16 Α. Correct. 17 Q. Hire and develop the best? 18 Α. Correct. 19 Insist on the highest standards? 0. 20 Correct. Α. 21 Think big? Q. 22 Α. Correct. 23 Bias for action? Q. A. Correct. 24 25 Q. Frugality?

Page 53 1 Correct. Α. 2 Vocally self-critical? 0. 3 Α. Correct. Earn trust of others? 4 Ο. 5 Α. Correct. 6 Q. Dive deep? 7 Α. Correct. 8 Have backbone; disagree and commit? 9 Α. I don't -- yes, I believe that is a leadership principle as well. 10 11 This is November 2013? Ο. 12 Α. Got it. Yes. 13 Ο. Deliver results? 14 Α. Yes. And they were the same in 2014, right? 15 Q. 16 Α. I don't know. 17 0. But in 2015 there was a change or 2016? 18 Α. I'm not certain on the timing. There has 19 been changes over the last four or five years, yes. 20 What are the changes? Q. 21 MR. WOLFF: Objection for the record. 22 You can answer. You can tell him. 23 THE WITNESS: I don't recall. 24 BY MR. NACHT: 25 Do you have any idea what the changes are? Q.

- 1 A. Well, I remember some of the changes, yes.
- Q. What -- what -- what do you remember?
- 3 A. We added a leadership principle for
- 4 curiosity.
- 5 Q. Okay. Anything else?
- 6 A. We made some other changes to the
- 7 leadership principles. I'd have to take a look at
- 8 them to compare the two side by side.
- 9 Q. You don't remember at this point?
- 10 A. I don't.
- 11 Q. Were any deleted?
- 12 A. I don't recall.
- Q. Were any altered?
- 14 A. I don't recall the specifics around it.
- 15 Q. So there's no leadership principle about
- 16 diversity and there's no leadership principle about
- 17 integrity. Is there a leadership principle about
- 18 treating people with respect?
- 19 A. Treating people with respect is also
- 20 embedded in the leadership principles.
- Q. Please explain why you think that to be so.
- 22 A. Earning trust of others means treating
- 23 them with respect, listening to others, having a bias
- 24 for action, having ownership, those are all ways that
- 25 you can build a trustful and respective relationship

- 1 with people.
- 2 Q. Some organizations are more hierarchical
- 3 and some are more collaborative. Is that a fair
- 4 statement?
- 5 A. Broadly across organizations, yes.
- 6 Q. So the United States military might be an
- 7 example of a very hierarchical organizations?
- 8 A. I don't know. It might be. I don't know
- 9 the military well enough to -- to be able to comment
- 10 on that.
- 11 Q. Okay. Even from just common understanding
- 12 as an American, you don't have an opinion?
- 13 A. I don't have an opinion, no.
- Q. Ford Motor Company, is Ford more or less
- 15 hierarchical than Amazon, in your experience?
- 16 A. I think it would depend on the specific
- 17 situation. Can you give me some specifics?
- 18 Q. Manager has concerns about the direction
- 19 projects are going?
- 20 A. It's too broad and ambiguous. I wouldn't
- 21 be able to evaluate hierarchal or not.
- Q. Okay. Doesn't follow chain of command?
- 23 A. I can't -- I can't give you -- I can't
- 24 give you an answer. We would need to have a specific
- 25 example.

- 1 Q. There's no rule against not following chain
- 2 of command at Amazon, correct?
- 3 A. There is no rule.
- 4 Q. You have stated that you believe that the
- 5 most important determinant in determining the success
- 6 of whether people will stay with an organization is the
- 7 on-board process, correct?
- 8 A. I don't recall. I do believe the on-board
- 9 process is very important.
- 10 Q. Is it something you believe whether you've
- 11 said it or not?
- 12 A. I do believe the on-boarding process is
- 13 important.
- Q. And what does "on-boarding process" mean to
- 15 you?
- 16 A. I believe it means the orientation and the
- integration of new people into Amazon.
- 18 Q. Is there anything in the on-boarding
- 19 process that informs people that they have to follow
- 20 chain of command?
- A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. In the on-boarding process, the leadership
- 23 principles which I you just articulated are taught,
- 24 correct?
- A. I believe they're reviewed, yes.

- 1 Q. So they're not taught but they're reviewed?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- 3 Q. Okay. The leadership principle of have
- 4 backbone; disagree and commit, inherent in that one
- 5 leadership principle is contrary directions implying
- 6 that you engage in the contrary directions at different
- 7 times, fair?
- 8 A. Can you be more specific about "contrary
- 9 directions"?
- 10 Q. Why don't you explain the leadership
- 11 principle of show backbone; disagree and commit in your
- 12 own words instead of me just asking specific questions
- 13 that you're not sure what I mean?
- 14 A. Disagree and commit is focused on we
- 15 want -- during the time that direction for a program
- 16 to serve customers is being discussed and debated, we
- 17 want participation from all people who would be close
- 18 to the customer and expert in that area to
- 19 participate, and then at some point a direction is
- 20 determined and we would like everybody who's part of
- 21 that program and team to align together to serve
- 22 customers great.
- 23 Q. Have you spoken to Garret Gaw since his
- 24 deposition?
- A. Not -- not one on one, no. He was on a

- 1 video conference for a meeting that I had either this
- 2 week or last week as part of a larger group.
- 3 Q. Broadly, what was the subject?
- 4 A. We're doing a innovation program this
- 5 coming fall that's like a technology hack-a-thon so we
- 6 were having a meeting about our plans for that.
- 7 Q. Okay. Have you spoken to Derek Oehler
- 8 since his deposition?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Have you spoken to Joel Mosby since his
- 11 deposition?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. When is the last time you had some sort of
- 14 social interaction, and that includes formal work
- 15 social interactions, with Stefan Haney?
- 16 A. I've never had outside-of-work social
- 17 interactions and the last work social interaction
- 18 would have been a -- let's see, happy hour to
- 19 celebrate a number of achievements including
- 20 celebrating his new role at Amazon, and I would have
- 21 been there with him along with, you know, a couple
- 22 hundred people or whatever the number was.
- 23 Q. And how many work social interactions
- 24 before that change in role did you have with Stefan
- 25 Haney on average per year?

- 1 A. During -- it's hard to estimate because it
- 2 would have varied widely. Is there a particular year
- 3 that would be helpful for me to comment on?
- 4 Q. Well, let's go through it: 2015?
- 5 A. If I were to guess and this is a guess, I
- 6 would say 20.
- 7 0. 2014?
- 8 A. 5.
- 9 Q. Why do you believe that the number
- 10 increased significantly in 2015?
- 11 A. Stefan reported to a vice president who I
- 12 hired and was on my team, Mark Mitchke. During I
- 13 believe 2013 and 2014, Mark moved to a new role within
- 14 Amazon partway through 2015, and his direct reports
- 15 reported into me for some period of time before I
- 16 hired Mark's replacement.
- 17 Q. Garret Gaw, how many work social
- interactions did you have with Garret in 2014?
- 19 A. Work social interactions?
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. Maybe a couple. I wouldn't be able to
- 22 recall what they are but it's possible that we had,
- 23 you know, happy hours or something that he would have
- 24 been at.
- Q. And no pure social interactions?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Joel Mosby, 2015, same question?
- 3 A. Same one to two. They would have been
- 4 part of whatever team social events we were doing.
- 5 Like, we have a picnic every year, so I'm counting,
- 6 you know, they would have been at the picnic and I
- 7 would have been at the picnic, but that's it.
- 8 Q. Any going out for cocktails or going to a
- 9 ball game with 15 or 20 people or less with Haney in
- 10 2015?
- 11 MR. WOLFF: Including work events?
- MR. NACHT: Yeah.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Well, no personal events, and I
- 14 don't recall if we had a baseball game social event
- 15 across our team that year. I know we have had -- I can
- 16 picture in my mind we've had Detroit Tiger/Seattle
- 17 Mariner team events, and there would have been -- there
- 18 would have been a lot more than 15 people there. There
- 19 would have been a lot of people there, but it's possible
- 20 that I attended one of those and he was there.
- So I see the Tigers and the Mariners every year,
- 22 so I have a hard time separating was there ever one of
- 23 those I was with the team as opposed to with my friends
- 24 and family.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. So this is a very important question for
- 2 your deposition and this case which is, of course,
- 3 because you're raising children here and I understand
- 4 this concept because I grew up in Boston. Who do you
- 5 root for because you're raising kids here, who do you
- 6 root for when it's Mariners/Tigers?
- 7 A. I root for the Detroit Tigers.
- 8 MR. WOLFF: Seahawks? Lions?
- 9 THE WITNESS: I root for the Detroit Lions.
- 10 When the Pistons came to play the Sonics, I rooted for
- 11 the Detroit Pistons.
- MR. NACHT: I root for the Tigers too. It
- 13 took a little while.
- MR. WOLFF: If you grew up with the
- 15 Washington Senators like I did in the '60s, it was easy
- 16 to switch allegiances.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 BY MR. NACHT:
- 19 Q. Now, with Mr. Simpson I assume there are
- 20 more work social and other social interactions?
- 21 A. Ian Simpson?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. I have probably -- can you give me a year,
- 24 I guess, time frame?
- 25 Q. Sure, 2015.

- 1 A. 2015, maybe three or four. No personal
- 2 interactions but the work social interactions we would
- 3 have been part of happy hours, and I usually hosted
- 4 for my direct reports one -- one dinner per year and
- 5 he would have been part of that.
- 6 Q. What about Mr. Gunningham?
- 7 A. I'm sorry. Could you ask me a question?
- 8 Q. Same question.
- 9 A. How many social interactions?
- 10 Q. Yes.
- 11 A. And the year is 2014?
- 12 Q. Well, let's just say on average per year
- 13 because you've worked for Mr. Gunningham for a number
- 14 of years, right?
- 15 A. That's correct. Zero personal social
- 16 interactions and gosh, work -- work social
- 17 interactions, maybe -- maybe three per year, and I'm
- 18 guessing at those, but we must have had happy hours or
- 19 events we would have been at at the same time.
- Q. Okay. And same with Mr. Bezos?
- 21 A. No personal social interactions and no
- 22 work social interactions.
- Q. Do you remember the New York Times article
- 24 that came out that was critical of Amazon's workplace
- 25 culture?

- 1 A. Can you show me a copy to make sure that
- we're talking about the same article?
- 3 Q. I'm only aware of one initial article which
- 4 then was followed by a second -- by a response by
- 5 Mr. Bezos and a response by someone from Amazon and
- 6 then there was a subsequent New York Times article.
- 7 That's all I'm aware of.
- 8 MR. WOLFF: August 2015.
- 9 MR. NACHT: Thank you, Counsel.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 11 BY MR. NACHT:
- 12 O. Is that what --
- 13 A. Yes, I'm aware of that article.
- Q. Okay. Were you part of any groups,
- 15 conversations about how to respond to the New York
- 16 Times article?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Were you given any directives as a result
- 19 of any changes that you were told occurred as a result
- 20 of prompting by that article?
- 21 A. No, not that I recall.
- Q. Do you remember that Mr. Bezos wrote an op
- 23 ed in the New York Times in which he invited Amazon
- 24 employees to send him e-mails?
- 25 A. I don't recall that he wrote an op ed, but

- 1 I do recall that he did encourage people to send an
- 2 e-mail to the head of HR or to himself.
- 3 Q. Are you aware of any interactions by him
- 4 directly in response to any of those e-mails?
- 5 A. No.
- Q. Are you -- you have an admin?
- 7 A. Administrative assistant?
- 8 Q. Yes.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And did you in 2015?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Who was your admin in 2015, sir?
- 13 A. Jennifer Matthews.
- 14 Q. Is she still your admin?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. Do e-mails that might come to you from
- 17 Mr. Bezos or his office, would they first always come
- 18 through Mr. Gunningham or might they be directly from
- 19 Mr. Bezos or his office to you or your office?
- MR. WOLFF: And you're including his EAs when
- 21 you say "his office"?
- MR. NACHT: Yes. EA's being executive
- 23 assistants or administrative assistants.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Can you clarify the question?
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. Do you want to repeat it or you want to
- 2 clarify it?
- 3 A. Well, just clarify because I didn't quite
- 4 understand the -- the nuance there between the two
- 5 scenarios.
- Q. Well, I'm just trying to understand the
- 7 process. If -- and putting aside the prior
- 8 conversations about the New York Times. Mr. Bezos has
- 9 an interest in something and it has to do with
- 10 Marketplace, has Mr. Bezos ever picked up the phone and
- 11 called you?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Has he sent you texts?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Has he sent you e-mails?
- 16 A. Yes, I believe so.
- 17 Q. It's unusual?
- 18 A. Directly Mr. Bezos sending me an e-mail
- 19 alone, yes, that would be unusual.
- Q. Not you alone, you with three or four other
- 21 people?
- 22 A. I don't know how to judge the frequency.
- 23 That has happened. He has sent me e-mails with others
- 24 included as part of the e-mail.
- Q. Do you remember receiving any e-mails from

- 1 Mr. Bezos concerning unhappy employees or workplace
- 2 culture issues?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Do you remember receiving any e-mails
- from -- well, let's -- let's go backwards.
- Does Mr. Bezos's executive assistants, do they
- 7 ever send you e-mails?
- 8 A. Possibly, yes.
- 9 Q. And they might also send Ms. Matthews
- 10 e-mails?
- 11 A. Possibly, yes.
- 12 Q. If it concerns a human resources type
- 13 question, the e-mails might go through the human
- 14 resources chain from Bezos's office to human resources
- and then come over to you from a human resources
- 16 person?
- 17 MR. WOLFF: Objection. Foundation.
- 18 If you know the answer, go ahead.
- 19 THE WITNESS: I don't know the answer, and
- 20 no, I have not received any e-mails as you described.
- 21 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. Okay. You receive e-mails from Shelly
- 23 Cerio or you did when she worked for Amazon?
- 24 A. I did receive e-mails from Shelly Cerio,
- 25 yes.

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- 1 O. You received e-mails from Madonna Cole?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You received e-mails from Shelly Cerio's
- 4 admin?
- 5 A. I believe that's possible, yes.
- 6 Q. You received e-mails from Mr. Beary?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You received e-mails from Sima?
- 9 A. Simmi, yes.
- 10 Q. Simmi.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. How does a manager know how to show
- 13 sufficient backbone but then disagree and commit at the
- 14 appropriate time?
- 15 A. I think it's primarily through their work
- 16 experience and coaching and mentoring.
- 17 Q. Is certain people -- certain people are
- 18 more important than other people in terms of one's work
- 19 relationship; is that fair?
- 20 A. No. I think that's completely false.
- Q. Okay. Explain.
- 22 A. I don't have anything to explain. It's
- 23 just completely false. We don't view people --
- 24 people's importance based on their -- whatever you
- described, work relationship or whatever the words

- 1 were you used.
- 2 Q. And so a cumulative assessment by many
- 3 people is more important than one or two people's or
- 4 three people's assessments?
- 5 A. I don't know if I can answer your
- 6 question. It's too -- it's too ambiguous. Can you
- 7 give me a specific example?
- 8 Q. Yes. If the majority of people believe
- 9 that a person is successful in achieving a leadership
- 10 principle but a minority of people have concerns, you
- 11 value equally the majority position, each person is
- valued equally in their assessment?
- MR. WOLFF: Each piece of feedback is --
- 14 MR. NACHT: Each piece of feedback.
- MR. WOLFF: -- is valued the same way?
- 16 THE WITNESS: I don't -- I think that those
- 17 sounded like two different questions.
- 18 We value for the purpose of establishing a
- 19 performance rating the feedback from people on the
- 20 person's team, from their colleagues and from other
- 21 people who would know their work well, and then we expect
- the managers to synthesize and develop a performance
- 23 rating based on that information.
- 24 BY MR. NACHT:
- 25 People who are rated least effective

- 1 automatically go on a performance improvement plan or
- generally go on a performance improvement plan? Which
- 3 is it?
- 4 A. If a person is rated least effective one
- time, they would generally go on a performance
- 6 improvement plan. If a person is rated least
- effective two times in two years in a row, we would
- 8 automatically put them on a performance improvement
- 9 plan.
- 10 Q. Did Joel Mosby tell you that he put
- 11 Abdullah Haydar on a performance improvement plan in
- 12 2014?
- 13 A. I don't know.
- Q. As you sit here today, do you know if
- 15 Abdullah Haydar was on a performance improvement plan
- 16 in 2014?
- 17 A. Well, I don't know if he was in 2014. I
- 18 know he was on a performance improvement plan after he
- 19 was rated least effective for two years in a row.
- Q. Are you aware of a sex harassment complaint
- 21 that was made against Stefan Haney?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. You've never heard of that?
- A. I've never heard of a sex harassment
- 25 complaint against Stefan Haney, no.

- 1 Q. Any kind of EEO, equal employment
- 2 opportunity-type complaint against Mr. Haney?
- 3 A. Not that I recall, no.
- 4 Q. Amazon has an open door policy, right?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. Managers are told quote, "You are welcome
- 7 to discuss any suggestion, concern or other feedback
- 8 with any member of the company's management.
- 9 Associates are encouraged to bring their ideas to the
- 10 attention of management," correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. That's something people are given in their
- owner's manual when they join the firm, right?
- 14 A. I believe that's correct, yes.
- 15 Q. And you believe it to be true, right?
- 16 A. I believe that to be true, yes.
- 17 Q. And it's very important, isn't it?
- 18 A. That people bring their ideas, yes.
- 19 O. And their concerns?
- 20 A. And their concerns, yes.
- Q. And you support that, right?
- 22 A. I do support that.
- Q. Before you came to Amazon you were at
- 24 McKinsey, you were at Ford, you were at Borders. Did
- 25 you believe in that kind of open door policy based on

- 1 those experiences even before you came to Amazon?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Why? Why is it valuable?
- 4 A. I think it demonstrates respect and care
- 5 for people and I think that's important if you want to
- 6 build a high-performing team.
- 7 Q. Amazon respects failure, right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Amazon encourages people to take risks and
- 10 think big and make choices, right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Some organizations are known for punishing
- 13 failure primarily and as a result the organization has
- 14 a culture of timidity, fair?
- 15 A. I can't assess other organizations, but it
- 16 is correct to say that Amazon, we do encourage people
- 17 to experiment on behalf of customers and we are
- 18 willing to fail in an effort to serve customers
- 19 better.
- Q. And individuals are encouraged to be bold,
- 21 to take action and consistent with the leadership
- 22 principles, right?
- 23 A. The primary leadership principle that
- 24 everyone has to be centered on is customer obsession.
- 25 So yes, in -- in the focus of being bold and thinking

- 1 big, we want people to be bold and think big about
- 2 things that would improve customer -- customer
- 3 experience.
- 4 Q. Is part of being a good manager not being
- 5 prejudiced?
- A. I don't think there's any room for
- 7 prejudiced in leading people, period.
- 8 Q. Why?
- 9 A. Because it's not part of a professional
- 10 environment. It would be completely unacceptable.
- 11 Q. Now, if we take for a second the negative
- 12 connotation of the word "discrimination" because some
- discrimination, discrimination against national origin
- 14 or religion as has been raised in this lawsuit is
- 15 illegal, right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. But some kinds of discrimination is normal,
- 18 right? We discriminate in favor of better performers
- 19 over weaker performers, and that's not illegal or
- 20 disfavored, right?
- 21 A. I don't think that's accurate. The
- 22 characterization of discrimination here in any form or
- 23 fashion doesn't resonate with me. We think of each
- 24 person as an individual person. We care about what
- 25 they're able to contribute and we don't use labels on

- 1 them to separate people.
- Q. Well, we -- we evaluate as part of -- as
- 3 part of being a manager, the OLR process you're
- 4 evaluating what people contribute and what they're
- 5 capable of contributing, right?
- A. We evaluate the past year's performance
- 7 against their goals, against our leadership principles
- 8 and their potential to grow in the organization and we
- 9 develop -- we use that to develop an overall rating
- 10 for them, that is correct.
- 11 Q. And people are treated differently based
- 12 upon their job, their level in the organization in
- 13 terms of compensation, right?
- 14 A. I don't -- I don't -- I don't agree with
- 15 your premise. People are not treated differently.
- 16 Are you asking if people are compensated differently?
- 17 Q. Okay. I mean if I'm working in a warehouse
- 18 making 15 bucks an hour and you're making over a
- 19 million bucks a year and I'm the guy making 15 bucks an
- 20 hour, I think I'm being treated differently, right?
- 21 A. No. No. I believe we treat everybody
- 22 with the same degree of respect regardless of what job
- 23 they have at Amazon.
- Q. I didn't use the word "respect." There
- 25 is -- I'm not implying anything with -- in these

- 1 questions about -- I'm just trying to get the very
- 2 basic concept established that management is all about
- 3 making decisions and assessments, let's start with
- 4 that, right? Management is about decisions and
- 5 assessments?
- A. A part of being a manager certainly is
- 7 making decisions and assessing the talent of the team,
- 8 yes. It's one -- it's one part of the role.
- 9 Q. And decisions include assessing, this is
- 10 someone who's going to succeed at that particular task
- 11 or not, right?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. This is someone who can succeed in our
- 14 organization or not?
- 15 A. It's not about our organization. I
- 16 believe that's incorrect. It's whether or not this
- 17 person can be successful given the requirements to
- 18 serve customers and be productive at Amazon. That's
- 19 the assessment. Our bias is that we would like
- 20 everybody to be successful.
- Q. And so you have a bias in favor of finding
- 22 opportunities and places for people to succeed?
- 23 A. We try -- our bias is to match the skills
- 24 and the experience of the people we hire to the role
- 25 that we put them in. That would be correct -- it

- 1 would be correct to say that.
- 2 Q. But because you want people to succeed, you
- 3 would look for opportunity to employ those human
- 4 resources productively within the organization?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You might be really terrible as a person
- 7 who has to ship packages out, you just might not have
- 8 the skill set for that even though you have a terrific
- 9 skill set for managing thousands of people, some of
- 10 whom do that, right?
- 11 A. That is possible, yes.
- 12 Q. You might not be successful at Jennifer
- 13 Matthews' position and she might not be successful at
- 14 your position, right?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. And you would have respect for Jennifer
- 17 Matthews, but the organization treats you differently
- 18 in certain ways. It's not about respect, but it's just
- 19 there are just objective differences in the jobs,
- 20 right?
- 21 A. Are you asking if the jobs are different
- 22 between the job of my EA and my job?
- Q. Well, obviously they're different.
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Obviously the jobs are different.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And obviously the organization treats you
- 3 differently in terms of -- not in terms of respect, but
- 4 in terms of compensation and in terms of other factors
- 5 that constitute terms and conditions of employment,
- 6 some of them. Some things are the same, some things
- 7 are different, right?
- 8 A. I disagree with the word "treat."
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Do different jobs have different
- 11 compensation? Yes. But we don't treat people --
- 12 Jennifer Matthews is treated with the same respect
- 13 that people would treat me or anybody else across our
- 14 team. If Jennifer Matthews had an idea about
- 15 something, people would be as interested to hear
- 16 her -- to hear her feedback as they would be on mine.
- 17 Q. On all subjects, really?
- 18 A. I don't -- I can't -- I can't answer in
- 19 the absolute, but I would say if it was a subject that
- 20 someone wanted to speak up on, we respect people's
- 21 opinions and we -- we listen to people and we're
- 22 respectful of others.
- Q. Are you familiar with the concept of
- 24 stereotypes?
- 25 A. I'm familiar with what a stereotype is,

- 1 yes.
- 2 Q. Are you familiar with the concept of --
- 3 what is it? What is a stereotype?
- A. I believe a stereotype is someone's
- 5 perception of you or an attribute about you.
- Q. Which may not be related to the truth,
- 7 fair?
- 8 A. Fair.
- 9 Q. But is associated in your mind with a
- 10 characteristic about that person?
- 11 A. I believe that as a definition is correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the concept of
- 13 unconscious bias?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Would you agree with me that all of us as
- 16 human beings growing up in any country but certainly in
- our country, we develop unconscious biases, every human
- 18 being, every single one of us?
- 19 MR. WOLFF: Objection. Foundation.
- If you think as a general matter, you can answer,
- 21 go ahead.
- 22 THE WITNESS: I think as a -- as a general
- 23 statement my opinion would be a yes, I agree with you.
- 24 People develop some unconscious biases, and I would say
- 25 all human beings do, yes.

- 1 BY MR. NACHT:
- 2 Q. And there are other habits which are bad
- 3 for managing people that we have to struggle with,
- 4 right, just as humans?
- 5 A. I don't -- you have to be more specific
- 6 for me to...
- 7 Q. Sure. I guess part of being a good manager
- 8 is to impose self-discipline, right?
- 9 A. You'd have to be more specific so I can...
- 10 Q. Well, just as a general concept you'll
- 11 agree with that, right?
- 12 A. Is self-discipline important to be
- 13 successful? Yes, I believe self-discipline is
- 14 important.
- 15 Q. And specifically as a manager it's
- 16 important to recognize what you individually bring to
- 17 the table that's helpful and that's harmful, right?
- 18 A. I believe you do have to assess your
- 19 leadership skills in order to be an effective leader,
- 20 yes.
- Q. And one of the cool things about the Amazon
- leadership principles is that it very much embodies
- 23 that concept of self-awareness and collective efforts
- 24 to help people achieve self-awareness, right?
- 25 A. Our aim isn't -- isn't focused on what

- 1 you're describing. The leadership principles are
- 2 really focused on how do we build a culture and
- 3 organization that's focused on serving customers very,
- 4 very well. That's our focus.
- 5 Q. Okay. Be vocally self-critical for a
- 6 second. How could you -- how -- how -- not vocally
- 7 self-critical for you in the last 10 years. Something
- 8 a long time ago. What's something you had to overcome,
- 9 say, between 10 and 15 years ago, that you did overcome
- 10 that made you a better, more successful manager?
- 11 MR. WOLFF: You can answer if you can think
- 12 of an example that far in the past.
- 13 THE WITNESS: This is outside the
- 14 professional career? Outside my current experience at
- 15 Amazon?
- 16 BY MR. NACHT:
- 17 Q. No. Well, I guess you've been at Amazon
- 18 more than 10 years, right?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. No, I was just -- in other words --
- 21 A. In general? Yes.
- Q. I'm thinking actually about professional,
- 23 I'm not asking about your personal life.
- 24 A. Got it.
- 25 Q. I'm thinking about --

- 1 A. When I went back to business school at the
- 2 University of Michigan, I was really interested in
- 3 improving my analytic skills and I loved the
- 4 statistics course I took there, and I found it to be
- 5 very, very helpful to improve my analytic skills.
- Is that the kind of example that you're looking
- 7 for?
- 8 Q. I'm not sure I was looking for an answer of
- 9 a specific kind.
- 10 Are there -- that's a skill. That's development
- of a skill. What about a -- what about a personal
- 12 characteristic? Do you feel like you've ever had to
- work on things in order to be a more effective leader
- or a more effective manager?
- 15 A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. That's not so much a skill, although, there
- 17 may be skills in tackling the issue?
- 18 A. Uh-huh.
- 19 O. We all have vices.
- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. We all have vices. We all need to work on
- 22 our vices. I'm not asking about your personal life.
- 23 I'm asking about your work life as a manager, about --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- something like that.

- 1 A. What's the question? I'm sorry.
- 2 Q. Yeah. So what comes to mind about
- 3 something you've worked on that makes you a better
- 4 manager?
- 5 A. Would you like me to give you a specific
- 6 example this time?
- 7 Q. Please.
- 8 A. Okay. I choose to during reviews of
- 9 programs on my team allow the other leaders in the
- 10 room to ask questions and participate first, and I
- 11 purposely save my questions and feedback for the very
- 12 end of the meeting so that I can ensure that other
- 13 leaders get a chance to participate and so that we get
- 14 the thinking out from all of the people in the room.
- 15 Q. That's something you do now. Are you
- 16 saying that you learned that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 O. Tell me more about that.
- 19 A. Well, I think I love the work we do at
- 20 Amazon. I love to participate. I have high energy
- 21 and high engagement, and I try to maintain those
- 22 attributes but also create an atmosphere for other
- 23 leaders to have a chance to participate and speak up
- 24 and contribute to making the program better.
- Q. And I don't want to put words in your mouth

- 1 or suggest something.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. But the original question was something
- 4 you've learned.
- 5 A. Yes. I've learned that at Amazon.
- 6 Q. Okay. So before you learned that, did you
- 7 talk too much at the beginning of the meeting? Is that
- 8 the point?
- 9 A. I wouldn't -- I wouldn't have been as
- 10 thoughtful at making sure that all the leaders got a
- 11 chance to contribute before I gave my feedback to the
- 12 team.
- Q. Would you agree that working to eliminate
- 14 unconscious bias is something all of us who manage
- 15 people need to work on?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection to "all of us who
- 17 manage people."
- 18 BY MR. NACHT:
- 19 Q. All of us who manage people.
- 20 A. I believe understanding and working on
- 21 unconscious bias is important, and we were the first
- 22 leadership team at Amazon to actually bring in
- 23 unconscious bias training and discussion into our
- leadership off-sites, and so I do believe that is
- 25 important.

- 1 Q. Did you get trained in this?
- 2 A. I participated in the review of
- 3 unconscious bias, yes.
- 4 Q. Did you learn anything?
- 5 A. I did.
- Q. Was it about race or gender or something
- 7 else?
- 8 A. It was not about race or gender, no.
- 9 Q. What did you learn?
- 10 A. One of the things I remember learning was
- 11 there's academic research that suggests that all human
- 12 beings have some unconscious bias and there was a
- 13 Harvard study showing that people sometimes mistakenly
- 14 will use cues about what a person might be good at
- 15 that may or may not have anything to do with whether
- 16 they're good at it or not.
- 17 Q. Are you a reasonably sensitive person in
- 18 the workplace?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- MR. NACHT: Just for the record, Counsel,
- 21 what exactly is objectionable about the question?
- MR. WOLFF: I'm not sure what "reasonably
- 23 sensitive" means.
- MR. NACHT: All right. Well, the witness may
- answer.

- 1 MR. WOLFF: Yeah. I'm not telling him not to
- 2 answer.
- THE WITNESS: I don't know what that means.
- 4 Could you be more specific?
- 5 BY MR. NACHT:
- 6 Q. Do you think that you're thoughtful?
- 7 A. I do think I'm thoughtful.
- 8 Q. Do you try and avoid humiliating people?
- 9 A. I would never humiliate someone.
- 10 Q. You would never intentionally drive a car
- into another car, but it might happen over the course
- 12 of a career in driving, right?
- 13 A. Is your question do I think it's possible
- 14 for people to get into car accidents?
- 15 Q. Where they don't consciously intend to get
- 16 into a car accident?
- 17 A. I can't answer the question. It seems too
- 18 ambiguous.
- 19 Q. Well, people accidentally get into car
- 20 accidents all the time, right?
- 21 A. I believe people do get into car
- 22 accidents, yes.
- Q. Okay. And so if someone answered a
- 24 question in a deposition, I would never get in a car
- 25 accident, what they're really saying is I wouldn't

- 1 intentionally drive a car into another car or person or
- 2 building, but that doesn't mean that they wouldn't
- 3 actually do it?
- 4 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 5 THE WITNESS: I don't know enough about the
- 6 deposition or the situation so I can't -- I can't really
- 7 comment, I quess.
- 8 BY MR. NACHT:
- 9 Q. Well, it's certainly possible that you
- 10 unintentionally humiliated someone, right, at work?
- 11 A. I would never humiliate somebody at work.
- 12 O. How about embarrass someone?
- 13 A. I would -- I would never try to embarrass
- 14 somebody at work.
- 15 Q. But that could happen accidentally?
- 16 A. I think -- it's hard for me to answer in
- 17 the abstract.
- 18 Q. At Michigan State were you in a fraternity?
- 19 A. No. Oh, actually, I'm sorry. I was
- 20 briefly in a fraternity.
- Q. So you have this biosphere and at night you
- 22 put it up to 85 percent humidity and you lower the
- 23 temperature to 55 degrees, right?
- A. My understanding is something like that,
- 25 yes. It makes it -- the plants be able to thrive, and

- 1 yes, I believe when people leave, the evening
- 2 temperatures and humidity are focused on what makes
- 3 plant thrive -- plants thrive.
- 4 Q. So I heard you say this on YouTube about
- 5 this Amazon biosphere, and something jumped out at me
- 6 which is this biosphere contains all of these different
- 7 kinds of plants, right?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And they come from different places in the
- 10 world, right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. But why would they all thrive in 55 degrees
- 13 at night and high humidity?
- 14 A. I can't answer that. I don't know.
- 15 Q. I bet there's some plants that -- maybe
- 16 plants from the desert that want low humidity?
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 Q. Amazon is sort of a biosphere for people,
- 19 isn't it?
- 20 A. I don't know. I don't think it's -- I
- 21 don't think it's an appropriate analogy to compare the
- 22 people and the talent of Amazon to a place of
- 23 horticulture. That doesn't sound right to me.
- Q. Okay. Well, we get a diverse bunch of
- 25 people, right? You've got hundreds of thousands of

- 1 people working for Amazon, right?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. And -- but the leadership principles apply
- 4 to all of them, right?
- 5 A. They do apply to all the people who work
- 6 at Amazon, yes.
- 7 Q. And the corporate culture of Amazon
- 8 correctly handled can accommodate all kinds of people,
- 9 right, from all backgrounds?
- 10 A. We care about the talent and the ability
- 11 for people to contribute at Amazon, and I think there
- 12 are millions of people across the world that can be
- 13 part of Amazon, yes.
- Q. Regardless of national origin or religion?
- 15 A. We don't consider such things as origin
- 16 and religion as we think about people. We don't label
- 17 people with those -- those labels.
- 18 Q. But some degree of sensitivity is required
- 19 in order to make it an environment that's conducive for
- 20 everyone, right?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- THE WITNESS: I don't know. That's too
- 23 ambiguous a question. I'm not sure I understand.
- 24 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. Sure. Do you have an office in Japan?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you spent time in Japan yourself?
- 3 A. Yes, I have.
- 4 Q. Let's take the leadership principle of
- 5 expressing backbone.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you find that there are cultural
- 8 challenges in getting your Japanese team to get
- 9 comfortable with showing backbone when they come to
- 10 Amazon?
- 11 A. I don't think of people based on the
- 12 country of the office they're in. We do expect all
- 13 people who come to Amazon to understand the leadership
- 14 principles and to use the leadership principles to
- 15 quide their behavior. It doesn't matter what country
- 16 they're in. Using the leadership principles to guide
- 17 decisions you make and people you hire is the
- 18 expectation.
- 19 O. But there are cultural differences about
- 20 what's polite and what's socially normative, aren't
- 21 there?
- 22 A. I don't know that I would describe those
- 23 as cultural differences. I think when I visit Japan,
- 24 I do ask the team for feedback on what's the way to
- 25 dress respectfully and to organize the meeting

Case 2:16-cv-13662-LJM-SDD ECF No. 62-46 filed 12/28/17 PageID.3293 Page 89 of Page 89 respectfully and so -- but those are independent of 1 2 Amazon leadership principles. We don't change the leadership principles based on the countries we're in, 3 but we certainly would be respectful in whatever 5 countries we're in to how business is conducted there. 6 MR. NACHT: Okay. 7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off This is the end of Disc 1. The time is 8 record. 9:38 a.m. 9 10 (Recess 9:38-9:49.) 11 (Mr. Haydar re-enters.) THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the 12 record in the continuing deposition of Peter Faricy. 13 This is the beginning of Disc 2. The time is 9:49 a.m. 14 15 16 EXAMINATION (Continuing) 17 BY MR. NACHT: 18 Ο. Did you ever meet Nick Tawar face-to-face? 19 Α. Yes. 20 You found him irritating? Q. 21 Α. No. 22 What was it you said about him, what was 0.

his problem on the leadership principles?

Can we go back to the -- pull up the

things I said before. I don't recall exactly what I

23

24

25

Α.

- 1 said.
- 2 Q. I don't know what you said about it.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. As you sit here today, what do you -- what
- 5 do you remember?
- A. Well, you asked me has there been someone
- 7 else that I can recall that had an achieves
- 8 performance rating but was least effective, and I said
- 9 yes, and Nick was the example of that.
- 10 Q. I actually didn't ask you someone else, I
- 11 just asked you someone and first you said Abdullah
- 12 Haydar. And you believe Abdullah did in fact hit an
- 13 achieve as you sit here today, on goals or you're not
- 14 sure?
- 15 A. His performance ratings were, in the two
- 16 years he was there, least effective and least
- 17 effective.
- 18 Q. Right. But on the upper left-hand quadrant
- 19 of Exhibit 1?
- 20 A. I don't remember --
- 21 O. You don't remember?
- 22 A. I don't recall what the performance
- 23 ratings were0, no.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Yes.

Page 91 1 And it's fair to say that -- I mean, I Q. 2 asked you this earlier, but -- then we don't need to go 3 over it. Tell me about Mat Philipson. Is he a good 5 leader? 6 I believe he is, yes. Α. 7 Q. He's not a tech guy, right, he's a business 8 guy? 9 I believe he's a product manager. Α. 10 Can you picture him? Q. I can picture him. 11 Α. 12 Q. What are his strengths? 13 I -- I don't know. Α. 14 You have respect for Jim Joudrey, right? Q. 15 Α. I do. And for Avi Saxena? 16 Ο. 17 Α. I do. 18 Q. Do you remember making any comments about 19 Mr. Haydar and his wife --20 Α. No. 21 -- at a meeting? Q. 22 Α. No. You sometimes use humor in meetings, right? 23 Q. 24 Α. Yes.

I do too. Humor can be a very effective

25

Q.

- 1 tool in order to find connection with people and break
- 2 down barriers, fair?
- 3 A. I believe that's fair, yes.
- 4 Q. But humor can also get you into trouble by
- 5 unintentionally offending people, fair?
- A. I think humor can offend people, yes.
- 7 Q. You've reviewed documents before your
- 8 deposition, right?
- 9 MR. WOLFF: You can answer that.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Can you be more specific? You
- 11 mean the documents related --
- 12 MR. WOLFF: Did we look at documents
- 13 yesterday?
- 14 THE WITNESS: The documents related to this
- 15 case?
- 16 BY MR. NACHT:
- 17 Q. Yes.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You spent several hours yesterday preparing
- 20 for this deposition?
- 21 A. Correct. You were saying you're sorry
- 22 meaning that I had to spend a couple of hours
- 23 preparing for the deposition?
- Q. Yeah. You know, I mean, you're a busy guy.
- 25 I'm sorry you have to spend time out of your day doing

- 1 this. You manage a lot of people and you have a lot of
- 2 responsibilities, and I appreciate your participation
- 3 in the process.
- 4 But you believe in our legal system, right?
- 5 A. Can you be more specific?
- 6 Q. Well, you're proud to be an American --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- with our legal system, right?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. It doesn't mean that you believe that every
- 11 case is decided correctly or that everything is
- 12 perfect, but as a general matter, you're proud to be an
- 13 American with our legal system, right?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And you believe that we should have laws
- 16 that allow people who believe they have been treated
- 17 unfairly to seek redress in the courts?
- 18 MR. WOLFF: Objection to the extent it seems
- 19 a legal conclusion.
- If you got an opinion, you can share it.
- MR. NACHT: I don't seek a legal conclusion.
- 22 BY MR. NACHT:
- 23 Q. Just philosophically, you personally?
- 24 A. Philosophically I like that our judicial
- 25 system allows people who feel like they have been

- 1 harmed to -- to seek justice, yes.
- 2 Q. Okay. I appreciate you participating in
- 3 that process today and I guess yesterday to the extent
- 4 you had to prepare for today.
- 5 In preparing for the deposition, did it help
- 6 trigger your memory about any of the things we've been
- 7 talking about today?
- 8 A. I'm sorry. Can you be more specific?
- 9 Q. Well, I kind of don't want to in order to
- 10 protect attorney/client privilege because I don't want
- 11 to get into the conversation you had with your lawyer
- 12 yesterday. I just -- our memories are, we carry a lot
- of things with us and some things pop up and some
- 14 things can take time to peculate up. That's just the
- 15 way our memories are.
- Is that your experience just as a human?
- 17 A. I think that seems accurate, yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. And so I'm wondering if in looking
- 19 at documents and whatever discussions you had, without
- 20 characterizing those discussions, it was helpful in
- 21 terms of your memory?
- 22 A. I -- I can't answer the question. It's
- 23 too ambiguous.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. When you say helpful to your memory I

- 1 don't know how to -- how to judge it.
- 2 Q. Yeah, just about the kinds of things I've
- 3 been asking today, about any of them?
- 4 A. There has not been a question you've asked
- 5 today that I recall yesterday's documents being tied
- 6 to.
- 7 Q. Did you spend a lot of time on Brother
- 8 Rice?
- 9 A. I don't believe we spent any time on
- 10 Brother Rice.
- 11 Q. When you are looking at reviews in the OLR
- 12 about a manager's performance, what steps do you take,
- if any, to try to determine whether a particular person
- 14 has an agenda or a bias?
- 15 A. I don't think that the description is
- 16 correct. We don't look at the performance reviews
- 17 themselves in an OLR, and we do expect that the --
- 18 that the managers will bring in data to support the
- 19 performance rating, the leadership rating, the growth
- 20 potential and the overall rating.
- Q. When, if ever, besides -- did you read the
- 22 lawsuit in this case, the complaint?
- 23 A. I'm sorry?
- Q. Did you read the complaint in this lawsuit
- 25 or not?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 O. And it makes reference to some e-mails to
- 3 Mr. Bezos?
- 4 A. I don't recall if it does.
- 5 Q. Okay. Did you -- do you have any memory
- 6 that Abdullah Haydar had complained to Mr. Bezos?
- 7 A. No, I was not aware until this lawsuit of
- 8 that.
- 9 Q. It's hard to be sued because you're being
- 10 called a name. You're being accused of something which
- if you're a good person, you don't believe yourself to
- 12 be and so it's a painful process. It's just the way it
- 13 is. Surgery is painful. Lawsuits are painful. Some
- 14 things are just painful.
- 15 Getting criticism at work without being sued,
- 16 just getting criticism at work is a painful process
- 17 for -- for many people. Is that a fair statement?
- 18 A. I don't know how to judge the -- the
- 19 comment. I don't think criticism is the way I would
- 20 view it. If you're referring to is giving feedback to
- 21 others a helpful way to coach and improve people's
- 22 performance, I would say yes. And --
- Q. Have you ever gotten negative feedback?
- 24 A. Yes, I would guess.
- Q. Not guess?

Page 97 1 Α. Yes. 2 I mean, you got constructive criticism? 0. 3 Α. Yes. 4 0. Or feedback at McKinsey? 5 Α. Yes, I believe so. 6 Q. At Ford? 7 Α. Yes. 8 Some of it you agreed with, some of it you Q. didn't? 9 10 I don't recall the specifics. Α. 11 Q. At Borders, did anyone give you any 12 feedback? 13 I would guess the answer is yes. Α. I don't want you to guess. Do you remember 14 Q. or you don't remember? 15 I don't specifically remember specific 16 17 feedback, but it seems like it was, you know, during 18 the time I was there, there must have been discussions 19 and feedback offered about things I could do to 20 improve. 21 You left Borders for the Amazon job, you 22 had it lined up? 23 I left Borders to come to Amazon, correct. 24 Q. Had Amazon recruited you or did you reach out to them? 25

- 1 A. Amazon recruited me.
- Q. Who? Wilke, Gunningham?
- 3 A. Susan Harker.
- 4 Q. You're a Michigan guy. It was coming out
- 5 to the Pacific Northwest. You must have had to think
- 6 really hard about it, yes?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And Borders had bookstores, brick and
- 9 mortar bookstores. You had previously worked for the
- 10 leading management consulting firm in the country, in
- 11 the world really, and for a car company some people
- 12 have heard of called Ford?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. This was a -- at the time while it was a
- 15 growing company, it was still a very different kind of
- 16 industry and it was in another part of the country.
- 17 What attracted you to come to Amazon?
- 18 A. Growth.
- 19 Q. Could you be more specific, please? That
- 20 can mean a lot of different things.
- 21 A. Yes. I was very, very impressed
- 22 with the number of initiatives the Amazon leadership
- 23 team had lined up that they were focused on trying to
- 24 do to serve customers well, and I -- I love focusing
- 25 on growth opportunities and I thought this was just a

- 1 great opportunity.
- 2 Q. I'm one of those guys who loved Borders. I
- 3 really -- I loved it, and then it's not that I started
- 4 buying books online, I just -- I stopped caring about
- 5 Borders because they killed the experience by thinking
- 6 about sales per square foot and taking out all the
- 7 books I wanted to browse and read and the interesting
- 8 salespeople who had Ph.D.s and things I knew nothing
- 9 about that I could talk to when I was in there. And so
- 10 I would buy the book that one could buy online or from
- 11 Barnes & Noble or whatever, but I went in for the
- 12 experience, the intellectual exploration experience.
- 13 And I think I was a pretty classic Borders customer,
- 14 and I think the company wasn't paying attention to me
- 15 and a lot of people like me.
- Does that ring true to you as a former Borders
- 17 person who went to Amazon?
- 18 A. I can't say. I do feel like Amazon
- 19 offered something in books that sounds like it
- 20 appealed to you which is that they didn't view the
- 21 selection boundary to be what could fit into a
- 22 physical store. With -- with e-commerce it allowed
- 23 Amazon to offer every book possible all around the
- 24 world that they could find, and I think that's been
- 25 wonderful for customers. It sounds like it resonated

- 1 with you as well.
- 2 Q. When did the concept of nudging or
- 3 suggesting, when did that come into play?
- A. I'm sorry. Can you be more specific?
- 5 Q. Yeah, with Amazon, you bought this or you
- 6 were looking at this, have you thought about this?
- 7 A. The feature I think you're referring to
- 8 which is people who bought this or viewed this also
- 9 bought this recommendation feature, I couldn't tell
- 10 you the year, but it was in early Amazon days that
- 11 that was an important feature.
- 12 Q. Before you joined them?
- 13 A. Before I joined, correct.
- Q. Did you find that an attractive concept?
- 15 A. As a customer, I do find that to be
- 16 helpful, yes.
- 17 Q. You were excited to go to Amazon because of
- 18 the focus on the customer and the way that you imagined
- 19 correctly that it would lead to the growth of the
- 20 company; is that fair?
- 21 A. Fair.
- Q. And it's really all about thoughtfulness
- 23 for the customer, right?
- 24 A. I think thoughtfulness is part of the
- 25 customer obsession equation, yes.

- 1 Q. I mean, it's not -- it's not that the
- 2 device or the experience of the online experience is
- 3 designed because a particular engineer thinks it might
- 4 be unimportant to wait or to have to figure something
- 5 out, it's all about what the actual customer
- 6 subjectively perceives the experience to be and
- 7 improving that, right?
- 8 A. We do focus on what customers want and we
- 9 try to deliver exactly what they want and more,
- 10 correct.
- 11 Q. Apple provides devices that are easy for
- 12 nontechnical people that have an intuitive design feel,
- 13 agreed?
- 14 A. Agreed.
- 15 Q. And Amazon does something with the online
- 16 experience that is similar, right?
- 17 A. I believe so, yes.
- 18 Q. And so people are happier engaging in the
- 19 shopping experience and spending money which is what
- 20 business is about on some level, right?
- 21 A. I'm not sure I agree with that, but I
- 22 think customers -- I think it would be fair to say the
- 23 feedback is that customers do love shopping on Amazon.
- Q. And as I heard you say, they're spending
- 25 more time on the sites shopping than they used to, and

- 1 you believe that's because you provide them with a
- better experience, right?
- A. Correct.
- 4 Q. What's the average length of time people
- 5 work at Market- -- in Marketplace?
- A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. Is reducing turnover important or not?
- 8 A. Retaining top talent is definitely
- 9 important.
- 10 Q. So it's not overall retention, it's top
- 11 talent retention?
- 12 A. I think it's very important that we retain
- 13 top performers at Amazon and that's definitely an
- 14 important focus.
- Q. When is the first time you remember having
- 16 a conversation with Ms. -- with Sima -- Simmi?
- 17 A. Simmi.
- 18 Q. -- with Simmi about Mr. Haydar?
- 19 A. I don't recall any conversations with
- 20 Simmi about Abdullah.
- Q. And let's expand the definition of
- 22 conversation to include e-mails or any other kind of
- 23 interaction. Do you have any recollection?
- 24 A. I don't.
- Q. What about with Mr. Beary? Do you have any

- 1 recollection?
- 2 A. Yes, yes.
- 3 Q. And with Ms. Cerio, do you have
- 4 recollection?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And with Ms. Cole, do you have
- 7 recollection?
- 8 A. Sorry. Are these specific to e-mail or
- 9 any conversations?
- 10 Q. Any.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Written or verbal or video chat or --
- A. Got it. With Ms. Cerio, yes. With
- 14 Ms. Cole, I don't remember.
- 15 Q. Okay. So let's just go through it with
- 16 Cerio and then with Beary, please.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 O. So Ms. Cerio. Just all the interactions
- 19 you remember.
- 20 A. With Ms. Cerio about Abdullah?
- 21 Q. Yes.
- 22 A. The only interaction that I remember with
- 23 Ms. Cerio about Abdullah was she gave me an update
- 24 between some meetings that was the result of an
- 25 internal investigation of some claims that Abdullah

- 1 had made, and her report back to me was that the
- 2 internal investigation had revealed that all of those
- 3 claims were false and that the HR team and whoever
- 4 Abdullah would have been reporting to at that time
- 5 would be following up with him to communicate that.
- 6 Q. Okay. And with Mr. Beary, all interactions
- 7 that you remember as you sit here today about Abdullah.
- 8 A. The only interactions I remember were
- 9 either Mike giving me an update on Abdullah,
- 10 Abdullah's progress on his performance improvement
- 11 plan or me asking Mike for an update about Abdullah's
- 12 progress on a performance improvement plan.
- Q. Why? Why would you ask?
- 14 A. I was worried -- when you have someone
- who's performing poorly and is two years least
- 16 effective, that's extremely rare at Amazon, and for
- 17 that person to be a team leader and in a small remote
- dev center, I really worried about the impact of his
- 19 performance on his team but also the broader office as
- well.
- Q. Any specific worries about on his team?
- 22 A. I don't recall specifics on his team.
- Q. Do you recall specifics about on the
- 24 broader office?
- 25 A. I do.

- 1 Q. What do you recall?
- A. I recall an incident where Abdullah shared
- 3 information that was misleading and confidential about
- 4 potential State of Michigan legislation that caused a
- 5 number of people in the office to worry about whether
- 6 or not the office would be shut down and whether or
- 7 not their jobs would be at stake.
- 8 Q. Was Abdullah Haydar, did he have some sort
- 9 of site leader role in Detroit?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Had he built a team in Detroit?
- 12 A. I don't know for certain. It's possible
- 13 when he -- when we moved him to Detroit that he took
- 14 over an existing team, but it's also possible he would
- 15 have added to that team. I don't know the facts
- 16 there.
- 17 Q. Do you know if he was good at team building
- 18 in Detroit?
- 19 A. I don't.
- 20 Q. And the -- if he had heard something,
- 21 whether it was accurate or not accurate, wasn't it his
- 22 duty to share it?
- A. No. His duty would have been to discuss
- 24 it with whoever his manager was and to certainly seek
- 25 more information about it, but to share it more

- 1 broadly with people in the office, I know Ian Simpson
- 2 and Garret Gaw and a number of other folks thought
- 3 that was completely inappropriate. And I agree with
- 4 their assessment.
- 5 Q. And how do you know that he did that?
- A. I believe Ian and Garret mentioned it to
- $7 \quad \text{me.}$
- Q. And there's an e-mail where he's sharing it
- 9 with Garret Gaw about this is about the tax
- 10 negotiations with the State of Michigan at the time,
- 11 right?
- 12 A. I'm not familiar with that e-mail.
- Q. Okay. But -- are you sure that he shared
- 14 it with anybody else?
- 15 A. I only know what was relayed to me from
- 16 Garret and Ian based on the concerns that other
- 17 engineers in the office expressed about finding this
- 18 out.
- 19 Q. All right. You have no -- you did no
- 20 follow-up to determine if Abdullah Haydar was spreading
- 21 discord or...?
- 22 A. I did not follow up on that specific
- 23 issue.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. But it was an example of something that

- 1 worried me about his performance. Certainly it
- 2 worried me.
- 3 Q. Is there anything else that you can think
- 4 of as you sit here today just based on memory about
- 5 Abdullah Haydar's performance?
- A. I mean, the -- the facts of someone
- 7 being least effective in their first year at Amazon
- 8 and least effective two years in a row, that's --
- 9 that's extremely rare and it would make you very
- 10 worried that this person isn't performing at the
- 11 standards that we require at Amazon. So anyone who
- 12 would have been in that bill, I would have worried
- 13 about.
- Q. And you were relying on Joudrey's input in
- 15 rating him least effective in 2013?
- 16 A. All of the people who contributed to his
- 17 ratings would include Kanda, Jim Joudrey, Curt Ohrt,
- 18 Ian Simpson, Joel Mosby, Garret Gaw, Avi Saxena, and I
- 19 may be missing someone in there, but whoever were --
- 20 whoever was his manager and whoever was that manager's
- 21 manager, I would have absolutely relied upon their
- 22 ratings, yes.
- 23 Q. And you were describing earlier how you
- 24 listened to everybody before you give input, right?
- 25 A. I said one of the lessons I've learned

- 1 about program reviews is I've learned that I enjoy it
- 2 more and I think it's a more effective management
- 3 strategy to let others give their feedback first
- 4 before I give mine, yes.
- 5 Q. So you did not give input or did you give
- 6 input or do you not remember if you gave input into
- 7 Abdullah Haydar's 2013 review?
- 8 MR. WOLFF: That he would have received in
- 9 2014?
- MR. NACHT: Yes.
- 11 THE WITNESS: I don't -- I believe the person
- 12 who would have been responsible for the review would have
- 13 been Kanda and he would have written the review with the
- 14 feedback he received from people across our team, and I
- 15 don't believe -- I don't believe I would have had any
- 16 feedback as part of that review.
- 17 BY MR. NACHT:
- 18 Q. I'm going to show you a document you may
- 19 not have seen before, but it was produced to us from
- 20 Amazon Bates stamp 411 double-sided document, 411, 412,
- 21 413, 414. Let's mark it as Exhibit 2.
- 22 (Exhibit No. 2 marked
- for identification.)
- 24 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. It's not to you or from you and you may

- 1 never have seen it. You may have seen it, I don't
- 2 know. The document purports to be an investigative
- 3 interview with Jim Joudrey by Anne DeCleene, April 2nd,
- 4 2015.
- 5 Do you agree that's what it says it is?
- A. I do believe that's what it says it is,
- 7 yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. On the back of the first page under
- 9 ratings -- have you seen this document before?
- 10 A. I don't believe so.
- 11 Q. Okay. If you look to Paragraph 2B Roman
- 12 numeral X and then down from there, I'd like you to
- 13 just take a little time and read this, please.
- A. (Witness complies.)
- Okay. So this is what Anne DeCleene wrote
- 16 that Jim Joudrey told her?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And Joudrey evidently told her that you
- 19 were not a fan of Abdullah Haydar, subparagraph X, do
- 20 you see it?
- 21 A. I see what's written here, yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you remember saying anything in
- 23 the OLR which would have given Jim Joudrey that
- 24 perception?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Then No. 1, it says, "He wasn't an LE going
- 2 into the OLR." LE would be...?
- 3 A. Least effective.
- 4 Q. And so that sounds like Joudrey is saying
- 5 that Haydar in Joudrey's mind was not going to be rated
- 6 least effective heading into the OLR?
- 7 A. I don't -- I don't know the facts on that.
- 8 Q. Okay. But do you agree that that's what it
- 9 says?
- 10 A. I agree the words here says he wasn't an
- 11 LE going into the OLR. I don't know what the facts
- 12 were, though.
- Q. And then Paragraph 2, it says, "Avi" -- and
- 14 that would be Saxena?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. "Avi" --
- 17 A. I believe so, yes.
- 18 Q. "Avi and I argued hard for him in the OLR
- 19 to not be an LE."
- Do you have any recollection of that?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. And then it says under 3, "If he really is
- 23 an LE, why move him to Detroit?"
- Do you remember that subject coming up?
- 25 A. I do.

- 1 Q. And then it says, "We had a big
- 2 discussion."
- 3 Do you remember there being a big discussion or
- 4 at least a discussion?
- 5 A. I do remember there being a discussion
- 6 about the move to Detroit, yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. That's Abdullah Haydar moving to
- 8 Detroit?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. It says, "I think he was on the
- 11 bubble."
- 12 Any memories of that?
- 13 A. I don't know what that refers to.
- Q. And then it says, "Peter pushed, made the
- 15 ultimate call."
- Do you have any memory of that?
- 17 A. I do.
- 18 Q. Okay. I'll ask you in a sec.
- 19 A. Okay.
- Q. It said, "A, he referenced meetings he had
- 21 been in with Abdullah."
- Do you have any recollection of referencing
- 23 meetings you had been in with Abdullah --
- 24 A. No --
- 25 Q. -- in the meeting?

- 1 A. -- I don't.
- Q. All right. Now, I want to go back to the
- 3 discussion and tell me what you remember.
- 4 A. I pushed and made the call on allowing
- 5 Abdullah to move to Detroit and restart and have
- 6 another chance at Amazon. That's what that's
- 7 referring to and that's what I recall discussing in
- 8 the meeting.
- 9 It's unusual with someone's performance ratings
- 10 being so poor to start with and being so poor the
- 11 first year to move this person to another office to
- 12 another team, and that would have required my -- my
- 13 view because we hold senior leaders accountable if
- 14 they take people who are performing poorly and move
- 15 them to other teams in other offices, and I did think
- 16 from the meetings I had been in with Abdullah, which I
- don't remember very many, but I do remember feeling
- 18 like he deserves an opportunity to go to a different
- 19 team in a different office and have a chance to be
- 20 productive at Amazon.
- 21 Q. You certainly would not feel like after
- 22 spending some time with Abdullah after he had been with
- 23 the company some months that he was a -- not going to
- 24 work out?
- 25 A. I don't know. These ratings are -- they

- 1 are alarming and they're poor, and I think the
- 2 feedback from the leaders on my team who managed
- 3 Abdullah from the beginning of his time at Amazon was
- 4 pretty consistent about this -- these performance
- 5 ratings. And anyone who has these kind of performance
- 6 ratings when they first join Amazon, you absolutely
- 7 would worry about their opportunity to be successful.
- 8 (Discussion off the written record.)
- 9 MR. NACHT: Bates stamp 2184. Let's mark
- 10 this as 3.
- 11 (Exhibit No. 3 marked
- for identification.)
- 13 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. I don't know if you've seen this document.
- 15 It's another document produced by Amazon in this case.
- 16 It purports to be an e-mail from Jennifer JoHanson.
- 17 Do you know her?
- 18 A. I do.
- MR. WOLFF: Do you have a copy for me?
- MR. NACHT: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry.
- 21 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. She's a human resources person?
- 23 A. Yep.
- Q. Did you work with her?
- 25 A. I did.

- 1 Q. To Anne DeCleene. Presumably this is in
- 2 connection with the DeCleene investigation of Haydar's
- 3 complaints based upon the timing because it was sent
- 4 April 1, 2015, and the subject is Abdullah Haydar
- 5 documents. And there's -- Paragraph 4 states,
- 6 "Additionally I found in my Marketplace VP 2014 OLR
- 7 notes this entry for Abdullah. Unfortunately I didn't
- 8 note the ratings prior to changing but my notes made me
- 9 think he came in with ADNMHV." And the chart shows
- 10 Abdullah Haydar with a performance rating of achieves
- 11 and a leadership rating of DN.
- So the acronym, A would be achieves?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. DN would refer to the leadership ratings?
- 15 A. I don't know. I guess that is -- I don't
- 16 know what DN refers to.
- 17 Q. Do you know what M refers to?
- 18 A. I'm not sure in this context what it is.
- 19 Q. And HV would be highly valued?
- 20 A. I would believe so.
- Q. And highly valued is sort of the big
- 22 middle. It's a passing score. It's not a low
- 23 pass/fail. It's not a high pass, right? I mean, this
- is what most people get?
- 25 A. No. I think the -- the -- any part

- 1 of the rating that would be does not meet or least
- 2 effective or needs improvement or low we would
- 3 separate out any performers who had those types of
- 4 indicators in their rating into a different bucket
- 5 theoretically.
- Q. Do you dispute Mr. Joudrey's account that
- 7 Abdullah Haydar was headed into the OLR with higher
- 8 ratings than he came out with?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- 10 Q. Do you think that it's possible that you
- 11 pushed not only for Abdullah Haydar to go to Detroit
- 12 but also pushed for him to be rated as least effective?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Do you dispute that you were not a fan of
- 15 Abdullah Haydar in the early 2014 period when the 2013
- 16 OLR was being conducted?
- 17 A. I don't think words "not a fan" resonate
- 18 with me, so I don't think of people as fans of them or
- 19 not fans of them.
- Q. Did you have an impression that Haydar was
- 21 a bad fit for the culture of the company?
- 22 A. I had an impression that his -- his
- 23 performance was struggling from the first few months
- 24 that he joined Amazon and Kanda and Curt Ohrt and Avi
- 25 Saxena and a number of people were very alarmed at the

Page 116 poor performance. 1 2 THE WITNESS: Can I do a quick bio break 3 again? 4 MR. WOLFF: Yeah, I need one too. 5 MR. NACHT: Sorry. What are we doing? 6 MR. WOLFF: Quick bio break. Bathroom break. 7 MR. NACHT: Didn't we just break? 8 MR. WOLFF: We broke at -- we broke 9 40 minutes ago. 10 MR. NACHT: Oh. 11 MR. WOLFF: We'll come right back. 12 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off record. The time is 10:33 a.m. 13 14 (Recess 10:33-10:37.) 15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the record. The time is 10:37 a.m. 16 (Exhibit No. 4 marked 17 18 for identification.) 19 20 EXAMINATION (Continuing) 21 BY MR. NACHT: 22 I'm showing you Exhibit 4. It's an e-mail 23 chain. This was produced to us. It's a two-sided 24 document. It's Bates stamped 2200, Counsel, and I think it was produced at different -- with different 25

- 1 Bates stamp numbers at different stages in the e-mail
- 2 chain. This one has on top Abdullah Haydar forwarding
- 3 to Jennifer JoHanson June 9th, 2013, but I imagine that
- 4 you viewed in preparation for the deposition your
- 5 e-mail to Mr. Haydar from Sunday, June 9th, 2013?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. And what was in your mind, if you
- 8 can remember, when you informed Mr. Haydar to
- 9 understand and integrate with the Amazon leadership
- 10 principles and culture?
- 11 A. Abdullah had gotten off to a rough start
- in terms of his performance on Amazon. The e-mail
- 13 that he sent, I guess, continued to worry me that he
- 14 wasn't taking responsibility for his performance, and
- 15 my response was focused on how can I help him be
- 16 successful at Amazon. I would like him to be wildly
- 17 successful and what are the things as they have been
- 18 relayed to me that would help him the most turn his
- 19 performance around and be successful.
- Q. Is Kanda still with the company?
- A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. That's Ramiah Kandasamy?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. Did you ask Kanda to leave Marketplace?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Did someone ask Kanda to leave Marketplace?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Was Kanda an effective manager, in your
- 4 opinion, in Marketplace?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. In Abdullah Haydar's e-mail that's on this
- 7 dep exhibit, he says, "I take full responsibility for
- 8 my own actions regardless of any coaching and I am
- 9 definitely committed to learning from and not repeating
- 10 my mistakes."
- On the next page he says, "My intention was
- 12 certainly not" -- this is at the bottom of the first
- 13 paragraph -- "My intention was certainly not to go
- 14 against your advice, so please accept my apology if I
- 15 misunderstood your direction. If I am still
- 16 misunderstanding your advice, I would definitely
- 17 appreciate any clarifications you can provide."
- 18 Isn't -- aren't those words indicating his
- 19 willingness to be a better listener and vocally
- 20 self-critical, those words I quoted to you?
- 21 A. I think the full context of the note
- 22 suggests, I guess, some level of disrespect or --
- 23 or -- or not working with the person that he reported
- 24 to directly and...
- Q. What -- what in the note exactly, given

- 1 that Amazon has an open door policy?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. What in the note exactly indicates
- 4 disrespect to you? Are you talking about disrespect to
- 5 Kanda?
- A. I believe so, yeah.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Yeah. The tone of the note is has anyone
- 9 coached me, and part of being a responsible leader is
- 10 taking responsibility to learn about things yourself
- in addition to benefitting from the learning that
- 12 others can give you.
- 13 Q. But when he says he takes full
- 14 responsibility for his own actions regardless of any
- 15 coaching, did you not believe him?
- 16 A. I think those are -- those are words that
- 17 are in line with someone who wants to improve their
- 18 performance but we don't rely upon e-mail words for
- 19 people's performance. We rely upon people actually
- 20 performing.
- 21 Q. Jim Joudrey and Anand Vardarajan also
- 22 complained about Kanda, right?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. They didn't express concern about Kanda?
- 25 A. Not to me. In fact, I believe Jim really

- 1 benefitted from working for Kanda and Kanda, if I were
- 2 to summarize Kanda, he's one of the most respected
- 3 engineers at that time that we had across our team.
- 4 He was the go-to person for most people across Amazon
- 5 to understand Amazon Marketplace technology better.
- 6 Q. Is there anything else about this -- did
- 7 this e-mail bother you or offend you or trouble you?
- 8 A. No, I viewed it as a gift to Abdullah to
- 9 try to clarify for him. He asked at the end of this
- 10 e-mail for guidance, and so if I didn't care about his
- 11 performance, I guess I could have just forwarded this
- 12 e-mail to Kanda and the HR team or whatever it might
- 13 have been, but I -- I -- I did care and did want him
- 14 to be successful. And so I took the time to think
- 15 about what is it that I could share with him that I
- 16 thought would be helpful for him.
- 17 Q. And when you told him, keep your head down,
- 18 your mouth shut and do your job, you meant, please stop
- 19 sending me e-mails about your supervisor?
- 20 A. Incorrect.
- Q. What did you mean?
- 22 A. I meant, if you read these first
- 23 two points, it's really all about respecting others,
- 24 listening to others and building trust with the other
- 25 teams at Amazon. And my -- my -- my top two

- 1 priorities for him are meant to be very clear and very
- 2 specific and very actionable so that he could take
- 3 those on and really be successful at Amazon.
- 4 Q. At some point did you decide that Abdullah
- 5 Haydar was a bad fit for the company's culture?
- 6 A. I don't assess Abdullah's fit for the
- 7 company culture. I take a look at his performance
- 8 ratings. He was rated least effective in his first
- 9 year and he was rated least effective in the second
- 10 year, and what I do recall is that, you know, we have
- 11 a understanding that anyone who's rated least
- 12 effective two years in a row automatically goes on a
- 13 performance improvement plan. And I wanted to make
- 14 sure that Abdullah was on a performance improvement
- 15 plan because least effective two years in a row is
- 16 very rare and -- and very poor performance ratings.
- 17 Q. What you're saying is you're relying on the
- 18 ratings in assessing how you treated Abdullah Haydar,
- 19 right?
- 20 A. What I'm saying is that in my
- 21 participation of people who don't report to me
- 22 directly, I rely upon their managers' assessment and
- 23 their managers' ratings to understand how well that
- 24 person's performing.
- 25 Q. Since Jim Joudrey is a person of integrity,

- 1 you don't dispute his perception that you are not a fan
- 2 of Abdullah Haydar whether in fact you said it or
- 3 didn't say it, whatever you said, you believe him that
- 4 he honestly felt that, that that was his perception of
- 5 your perception about Abdullah Haydar, correct?
- 6 MR. WOLFF: Objection. Form. Foundation.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Repeat the question.
- 8 MR. WOLFF: Let's hear the court reporter
- 9 repeat the question, please.
- 10 (Question on Page 121, Line 25, and
- on Page 122, Lines 1 through 5,
- 12 read by the reporter.)
- MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 14 THE WITNESS: That's extremely confusing.
- 15 BY MR. NACHT:
- 16 Q. Then I'll ask it in a simple way.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 Q. You have no reason to dispute that Jim
- 19 Joudrey was being an honest reporter when he told Anne
- 20 DeCleene that he perceived you not to be a fan of
- 21 Abdullah Haydar in the OLR reviewing 2013 that occurred
- 22 in 2014?
- 23 A. I wasn't in the discussion with Jim and
- 24 Anne, and I couldn't -- I couldn't begin to assess
- 25 what comments --

- 1 Q. That's not what I'm asking. I'm not asking
- 2 about --
- 3 A. Got it.
- 4 O. -- the discussion with Jim and Anne.
- 5 I'm -- I'm saying Amazon produced this document to us.
- 6 Let us assume that it is an accurate document. I'm
- 7 not -- you can't tell me it's accurate. I'm not asking
- 8 you to tell me it's accurate --
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. -- what Joudrey actually said to
- 11 Ms. DeCleene. I'm saying if it turns out that
- 12 Mr. Joudrey said that to Anne DeCleene, you have
- 13 nothing to dispute that that was his perception?
- 14 A. I don't think it's possible to answer the
- 15 question because I don't know what Jim's perceptions
- 16 are.
- 17 Q. Okay. Fine.
- 18 Are you aware of doing or saying anything that
- 19 might have given him a perception that you are not a
- 20 fan of Mr. Haydar?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Are you aware of doing or saying anything
- 23 that might have given Mr. Gaw the perception that you
- 24 are not a fan of Mr. Haydar?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Are you aware of doing or saying anything
- 2 that might have given Mr. Mosby the perception that you
- 3 are not a fan of Mr. Haydar?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Is it possible, is it possible that your
- 6 comments resulted in Abdullah Haydar's performance
- 7 review becoming least effective instead of highly
- 8 valued in the 2013 OLR conducted in 2014?
- 9 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 10 You can answer. Is that possible?
- 11 THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.
- 12 BY MR. NACHT:
- 13 Q. Why not?
- 14 A. Because I rely upon the manager to make
- 15 the final call about the performance rating, and I
- 16 don't know if I have the right time frame right, but I
- 17 believe this is referring to a time that Joel Mosby
- 18 managed Abdullah Haydar, and I would have relied upon
- 19 Joel to make the final decision about what the
- 20 appropriate performance rating was.
- Q. You made a decision by the spring of 2015
- 22 that Abdullah Haydar was not working out and he should
- 23 be coached out?
- A. Incorrect.
- 25 Q. You still wanted him to succeed?

- 1 A. The purpose of putting someone on a
- 2 performance improvement plan is to give them the
- 3 opportunity to improve their performance and that's
- 4 exactly what we wanted for Abdullah.
- 5 Q. The biggest problem Abdullah had was his
- 6 relationship with Haney, right?
- 7 A. I -- incorrect.
- 8 Q. Is there any other interaction that
- 9 impaired his ability to get his job done, to get his
- 10 goals achieved that you're aware of?
- 11 A. I would not be aware of those.
- 12 Q. You blocked the transfer of Haydar
- 13 April 29th, 2015, April 30th, 2015, that he wanted to
- 14 take to AWS, right?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 16 THE WITNESS: That's not correct.
- 17 MR. NACHT: You see the results of me not
- 18 having my admin with me.
- MR. WOLFF: Or a stapler.
- 20 (Exhibit No. 5 marked
- 21 for identification.)
- MR. NACHT: This is 568 through 570, right?
- 23 I am not sure actually. 5 -- 5668, 5669, 5670. It's all
- 24 right. Let's just go ahead.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. Take a look at the document, please.
- 2 A. I've seen the document, thank you.
- 3 Q. All right. I just asked you if you blocked
- 4 the transfer. You said no?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. Can you please explain this e-mail then?
- 7 A. I asked what the process would be for any
- 8 potential role that Abdullah would consider outside of
- 9 our team within Amazon.
- 10 Q. That's all you were doing?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Just asking about the process?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. You weren't trying to influence the result?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. Did you make that clear to Mr. Simpson that
- 17 you were not trying to influence a result?
- 18 A. I don't believe Mr. Simpson was confused
- 19 on that point.
- Q. What's the basis for that belief?
- 21 A. It's a longstanding policy at Amazon when
- 22 someone has a least effective performance rating two
- 23 straight years that they have to improve their
- 24 performance before they can move to another team at
- 25 Amazon. The only exception to that is if the VPs in

- 1 both organizations would agree to make an exception,
- 2 which I have never heard of at Amazon, so I was
- 3 confirming what the process would be here.
- 4 Q. Did Abdullah Haydar become someone you were
- 5 very comfortable with, someone you were very friendly
- 6 with?
- 7 A. I don't know how to answer that question.
- 8 I mean, I'm comfortable with everybody who works on
- 9 our team at Amazon and I wouldn't have felt any
- 10 difference about Abdullah than I felt about anybody
- 11 else.
- 12 Q. He wasn't a friend, right?
- 13 A. Most of the people that I work with, we
- 14 have a professional relationship and not a friend
- 15 relationship.
- 16 Q. What made you think that it would be
- 17 acceptable to tell a joke on one or more than one
- 18 occasion about Mr. Haydar's relationship with his
- 19 wife --
- 20 A. I did not.
- Q. -- to a group of people?
- 22 A. I did not tell a joke about Mr. Haydar's
- 23 wife to a group of people.
- Q. You pulled Abdullah Haydar out in front of
- 25 a group of people and you made some comment referencing

- 1 his marriage. Do you have a recollection of this or
- 2 not?
- 3 A. That's incorrect.
- Q. Okay. What -- what did you do if you
- 5 remember?
- A. We had a team social dinner in Ann Arbor,
- 7 and I remember making two toasts that evening.
- 8 Q. Where in Ann Arbor?
- 9 A. A pub and I'm not going to remember the
- 10 name.
- 11 Q. Irish pub on Main Street?
- 12 A. I actually don't remember at all.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. I seem to remember micro beer, good food,
- 15 new place and we had our own room so we could have a
- 16 team social event.
- 17 Q. All right.
- 18 A. At the beginning of the evening, I toasted
- 19 two things: One was I toasted Dave Anderson
- 20 congratulations because he was about to leave and go
- 21 get married, and then I made a toast to Abdullah
- 22 thanking him for his big commitment to commute back
- 23 and forth between Detroit and Seattle in order to join
- 24 Amazon and -- and play a role on our team.
- Q. When's the first time you spoke to a lawyer

- 1 about anything involving Mr. Haydar? While he was
- 2 employed?
- 3 A. Not that I recall. I think the first time
- 4 I would have met counsel on this topic would have been
- 5 my first meeting with you guys which --
- 6 MR. WOLFF: Are you including e-mail
- 7 correspondence in that question or no?
- MR. NACHT: Thank you --
- 9 MR. WOLFF: I'm not sure if --
- 10 MR. NACHT: -- for clarifying.
- 11 BY MR. NACHT:
- 12 Q. Well, first of all, I'm including Amazon
- in-house counsel, so...
- 14 A. I don't recall having any conversations
- 15 with any one Amazon in-house counsel about Mr. Haydar
- 16 while I was employed at Amazon.
- 17 Q. Okay. And there were some e-mail
- 18 interactions though, right?
- 19 A. I don't -- I don't recall.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 (Exhibit No. 6 marked
- for identification.)
- THE REPORTER: Number 6.
- MR. WOLFF: Can I have a copy?
- 25 He'll give me one. Thanks.

- 1 BY MR. NACHT:
- 2 Q. Directing your attention to Exhibit 6, you
- 3 sent an e-mail to Kanda and you cc'd Jennifer JoHanson,
- 4 June 10th, 2013, and then there was a follow-up e-mail.
- 5 This is Bates stamp 640.
- 6 Did you review this document before your
- 7 deposition?
- 8 A. I reviewed this document yesterday, yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. The document speaks for itself. Is
- 10 there anything you can add to provide context?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. What was the off-site you referred to?
- 13 A. I had an off-site of my direct report
- 14 leaders in Detroit.
- 15 Q. You stated you got lots of feedback about
- 16 his behavior. I'd like you to identify which
- 17 individuals gave you feedback about his behavior and
- 18 what the behavior was.
- 19 A. It would have been --
- MR. WOLFF: Stop for a second.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Sorry.
- MR. WOLFF: Are you asking as of this point
- 23 in time or more generally? You're asking as of the date
- 24 of this e-mail?
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. On June 10th, 10:24, a.m., what did you
- 2 have in your mind when you said "I got lots of feedback
- 3 about his behavior"?
- 4 MR. WOLFF: Okay.
- 5 BY MR. NACHT:
- 6 Q. Both people and what they told you.
- 7 A. The -- the people would have been among
- 8 the group of leaders who were coming to participate in
- 9 the off-site, so they would have been my direct
- 10 reports or --
- 11 Q. Well, you used the phrase "would have" --
- 12 A. Yes. Sorry. They are.
- Q. As you sit here, can you -- do you have a
- 14 recollection of comments that came to you?
- 15 A. I have a recollection of the feedback that
- 16 I received about Abdullah during this time, yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. First, give me a list of everyone
- 18 that you're saying, I remember, I got a feedback --
- 19 feedback from this person in June or May of 2013 about
- 20 Abdullah Haydar. Let's just have a list of those
- 21 people.
- 22 A. I can't give you a list because I'm not
- 23 going to be able to remember the specific people four
- 24 years ago.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. I do remember the specific feedback.
- 2 Q. Well, sometimes we form perceptions in our
- 3 mind and we think we've heard it from other people but
- 4 it in fact it's our own perception. Sometimes we form
- 5 perceptions in our mind from other people and we think
- 6 we came up with it ourselves.
- 7 Do you have any contemporaneous notes from 2013
- 8 that would help us identify who gave you feedback about
- 9 Abdullah Haydar before June 10th, 2013, that influenced
- 10 your views?
- 11 A. Sorry. Can you clarify the question?
- 12 Q. Notes.
- 13 A. Do I have any notes --
- 14 Q. Yeah.
- 15 A. -- from these discussions, no, I don't.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I did initially propose adding Abdullah to
- 18 the off-site because I wanted to be inclusive of him
- 19 and I wanted to make this an opportunity for him to
- 20 listen and learn and see how we put the leadership
- 21 principles in -- in -- into production, and I was very
- 22 disappointed after we had made the effort to invite
- 23 him and include him that a number of people came up to
- 24 me and strongly disagreed that this would end up being
- 25 a productive session if he were participating.

- 1 Q. But you can't tell me today who any of
- 2 those people were with any certainty?
- 3 A. They would have been people who would have
- 4 been included in this meeting and they would have been
- 5 my direct reports and the senior leaders of the team.
- 6 Q. But as you sit here today, you can't
- 7 remember Mr. Mosby came to me and told me X or
- 8 Mr. Saxena or Mr. Acint (phonetic). You don't have
- 9 that recollection, you're just guessing, right?
- 10 A. I'm not guessing. I invited Abdullah to
- 11 the meeting, and the only thing that would have caused
- me to change my mind is feedback from senior leaders
- 13 concerned about his participation and concerned about
- 14 his behavior. I do listen to the leaders on my team
- and I tried to respond to their feedback.
- Q. Can I see the exhibits, please? The other
- 17 exhibits.
- 18 A. (Witness complies.)
- 19 Q. I want to direct your attention to
- 20 Exhibit 4. What is the date Abdullah Haydar e-mailed
- 21 you?
- 22 A. June 9th.
- Q. Now, directing your attention to Exhibit 6,
- 24 when did you suggest to Kanda that Abdullah Haydar not
- 25 attend the off-site?

- 1 A. Monday, June 10th.
- 2 Q. You just said, The only thing that would
- 3 have changed my mind would have been I would have heard
- 4 from other people, but I'm wondering if it was your
- 5 reaction to the e-mail from the day before that might
- 6 have affected your opinion?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Besides Mr. Haydar, has anyone ever
- 9 complained internally about your decisions which
- 10 resulted in an investigation?
- 11 A. Has -- to make sure I clarify the
- 12 question.
- 13 Q. An internal investigation?
- 14 A. Has there ever been an internal
- investigation besides Mr. Haydar's?
- 16 Q. About someone who was underneath you where
- 17 they were complaining in part about your decisions?
- 18 A. I'm not aware that that was the complaint
- 19 in -- in -- in Abdullah's complaint, I'm not aware
- 20 that it's about that. But no, I'm not aware of any
- 21 investigations or complaints about my decisions.
- Q. How did it feel? You knew there was an
- 23 investigation. You knew you were interviewed. How did
- 24 it feel?
- 25 A. I don't know how to answer the question.

- 1 Q. How did you feel at the time about
- 2 participating in an investigation whether you believed
- 3 yourself to be a subject of it or not?
- 4 A. I think as we talked about the judicial
- 5 process, I believe it's also important for companies
- 6 to have good processes internally as well. So I'm
- 7 supportive of -- I would say broadly I'm supportive of
- 8 processes where employees get to raise concerns and
- 9 there's independent investigators.
- 10 Q. But there's a difference between it being
- 11 theoretical and it being about us. That's just human.
- 12 It's normal. I mean I'm sure when you got notified
- 13 that you had been sued in this case, you didn't go,
- 14 Yippee, the United States judicial system is working.
- 15 I mean, it's a normal feeling to go, Ugh, I've been
- 16 attacked. I feel like this is unfair. That's --
- 17 that's normal. It's human.
- And so my question is: If you can put yourself
- 19 back to the time, okay, there's an investigation,
- 20 Shelly Cerio sent it out to someone else. Did you know
- 21 that person, DeCleene?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. So DeCleene interviewed you, right?
- A. She did.
- Q. Did you have any feelings about it at the

- 1 time or just another meeting?
- 2 A. I mean, it's an important part of our
- 3 company process and our company ecosystem, so I don't
- 4 have any feelings other than that.
- 5 Q. Okay. Just so we're clear, you never
- 6 remember anyone talking in any OLR or at any other
- 7 point, whether it's Gaw or Mosby, Joudrey, anyone
- 8 talking about Abdullah's ability to hire a team?
- 9 A. I don't recall discussions on that topic.
- 10 Q. Is there anything actually you can recall
- 11 about Abdullah Haydar that's positive?
- 12 A. I, at the request of Abdullah, did a
- introductory one-on-one meeting when he first joined
- 14 Amazon and I thought we had a terrific discussion. I
- 15 had a very favorable impression, and so that's one.
- Q. Anything else?
- 17 A. I really -- I'm not familiar enough with
- 18 his performance to be able to identify the strengths
- 19 and weaknesses of his performance at Amazon. I am
- 20 familiar with his performance ratings, and obviously
- 21 as we've discussed, those were very concerning, but
- 22 I -- I see, and our process throughout those two years
- 23 was focused on the good in people and how do we help
- 24 them improve, and I feel like we made a very big
- 25 effort to try to help Abdullah perform.

- 1 Q. If you had input into the performance
- 2 ratings, then the performance ratings are not simply
- 3 independent variables that can determine your
- 4 perception of Abdullah Haydar?
- 5 A. That's incorrect. I did not have input
- 6 into the performance ratings, and I don't for anyone
- 7 who doesn't report to me directly. The manager of the
- 8 person determines those performance ratings.
- 9 Q. At what point did Mr. Mosby share with you
- 10 that he did not think Mr. Haydar was going to last at
- 11 Amazon?
- 12 A. I don't think Mr. Mosby ever shared such a
- 13 thought with me.
- Q. At what point, if ever, did Mr. Simpson
- 15 share that thought with you?
- 16 A. I believe the only time that discussion
- 17 would have come up is when Abdullah failed to meet the
- 18 performance criteria in his performance improvement
- 19 plan. I think that was the -- that was the first and
- 20 only time I remember having a discussion about the
- 21 performance improvement plan as failing.
- Q. Was it just the two of you or was it with
- 23 Beary or someone else?
- 24 A. I don't -- I don't recall.
- Q. Was it in person?

- 1 A. I don't recall. I know Ian and Mike and
- 2 Derek and Garret were very involved and I don't
- 3 remember how they would have updated me.
- 4 Q. Do you remember Garret Gaw ever sharing
- 5 with you any thoughts about Abdullah Haydar ever?
- 6 A. No, not with me personally.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Just planting the seed ahead of
- 8 time, when it's convenient between topics, I would like
- 9 another bio break, but I don't want you to interrupt you
- 10 if you're in the middle of a particular area that you
- 11 want to focus on.
- 12 MR. NACHT: Take it. Take it.
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off
- 14 record. The time is 11:18 a.m.
- 15 (Recess 11:18-11:29.)
- 16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the
- 17 record. The time is 11:29 a.m.
- 18 (Exhibit No. 7 marked
- for identification.)
- MR. NACHT: Could you hand the witness what's
- 21 been marked as Exhibit 7, please.
- MR. WOLFF: Oh, so if he has it, that's my
- 23 copy.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry.
- MR. WOLFF: Thanks.

- 1 EXAMINATION (Continuing)
- 2 BY MR. NACHT:
- 3 Q. So the first page of Exhibit 7, again, this
- 4 was produced by Amazon. It's Bates stamped 3649 to
- 5 3656 and the first page states that this is a
- 6 Marketplace leadership OLR, February 10th, 2014, and it
- 7 says, "Roxanne 05200 notes from Q1, 2015 Marketplace
- 8 OLR."
- 9 Who is Roxanne?
- 10 A. Roxanne is a building name.
- 11 Q. Got it. Oh, it's a place?
- 12 A. It's a place.
- Q. And a song?
- 14 A. 05200 is the room.
- 15 Q. Got it. And directing your attention to
- 16 3651, L7 discussion.
- 17 A. Got it.
- 18 Q. And it says, "Abdullah Haydar was doing
- 19 better but recently fell off the bus," in quotes "and
- 20 is being managed out. How do we ensure his team
- 21 leadership structure is prepared for him leaving the
- 22 company? Issues in earns trust, disagree and commit
- 23 and vocally self-critical. We are working on coaching
- 24 him out."
- Do you remember a discussion that contained that

- 1 content?
- 2 A. I believe -- this is -- this is not
- 3 consistent with my recollection of the discussion.
- 4 Q. Okay. And what's inconsistent about what's
- 5 written on Bates stamp 3651, Deposition Exhibit 7 for
- 6 Faricy with your recollection, sir?
- 7 A. What I recall is the beginning of this is
- 8 correct. In the midyear OLR, Abdullah was identified
- 9 as someone who had made improvement, but in this
- 10 yearend OLR was identified as someone who was least
- 11 effective for the entire year, and I believe it's
- 12 inaccurate to say is being managed --
- 13 Q. I'm sorry, the word you just used, was it
- "accurate" or "inaccurate"?
- 15 A. It's -- what's written here is incorrect
- 16 about being managed out. What I recall in the
- 17 discussion was anyone who has achieved least effective
- 18 performance ratings for two years in a row
- 19 automatically goes on a performance improvement plan.
- Q. How -- do you know who makes these notes as
- 21 a general practice?
- 22 A. I don't. The first time I saw the notes
- 23 was -- was yesterday.
- Q. Is there an admin person in the room to
- 25 take notes?

- 1 A. I don't know.
- Q. Whose job is it to take notes? An admin or
- 3 human resources? Who takes the notes?
- 4 A. I don't know.
- 5 Q. It's your meeting, right?
- 6 A. It's actually a meeting led by the HR
- 7 team.
- Q. Okay.
- 9 A. Which I participate.
- 10 Q. So take your time. Read the document
- 11 because you read it yesterday. Is there anything else
- in this document that is inconsistent with your memory
- 13 besides what you just testified to?
- A. (Witness complies.)
- MR. NACHT: Can you read the question to the
- 16 witness, please?
- 17 (Question on Page 141, Lines 11
- 18 through 13, read by the
- 19 reporter.)
- THE WITNESS: I did not notice anything else
- 21 that's inconsistent.
- 22 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. And this, as far as you're aware, is a
- 24 regular business record of Amazon?
- 25 A. I don't -- I don't believe that it is. I

- 1 don't know what this is. Until seeing the notes
- 2 yesterday, I haven't seen notes like this before.
- MR. NACHT: Counsel, do you happen to know
- 4 and want to share who wrote this thing?
- 5 MR. WOLFF: I -- I don't know who wrote it.
- 6 I think it's somebody attached to HR, but I don't know
- 7 who or a title.
- MR. NACHT: Thanks.
- 9 MR. WOLFF: Okay.
- 10 BY MR. NACHT:
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you have any contemporaneous
- 12 notes from this meeting which have a different account?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. This meeting happened two and a half years
- ago or so, three and a half years ago?
- 16 A. Three and a half years ago.
- 17 Q. Three and a half years ago. If you don't
- 18 have contemporaneous notes and everything else in the
- 19 document is consistent with your memory, what is it
- 20 that jumps out at you that makes the part about
- 21 Abdullah Haydar inconsistent with your recollection?
- 22 A. My -- my understanding of our policy that
- 23 we apply for any employee who's least effective rating
- 24 for two years in a row is that they automatically go
- on a performance improvement plan, period. So I don't

- 1 recall there being a discussion about anything else
- 2 other than that in the meeting.
- 3 Q. The OLR sets the rating for the person,
- 4 right?
- 5 A. No. The manager of the employee sets the
- 6 rating for the employee.
- 7 Q. Following the discussion at the OLR?
- 8 A. Incorrect. That's not accurate.
- 9 Q. Your company, not mine. Can you explain it
- 10 to me, please?
- 11 A. Managers set the rating for the employee's
- 12 performance review prior to the OLR that would roll up
- 13 to me.
- 14 O. And then?
- 15 A. And then that performance rating is shared
- 16 during the discussion about the performance of all the
- 17 different people on our team.
- 18 O. And it would be unusual to alter the final
- 19 performance rating as a result of the OLR?
- 20 A. It's -- it's possible that could
- 21 happen based on a discussion of people who would know
- 22 the candidate, know the employee well in the room.
- Q. But it would be unusual?
- A. I think it's pretty rare, yes.
- 25 Q. And can you think -- if Mr. Joudrey's notes

- 1 are correct and that happened in the case of Abdullah
- 2 Haydar, can you think of any other example?
- 3 A. I don't know that Mr. Joudrey's notes are
- 4 correct.
- 5 Q. Can you think of any other person where it
- 6 happened?
- 7 A. I don't -- I think the -- the context of
- 8 the discussion is Mr. Mosby was the manager for
- 9 Abdullah during the previous OLR we discussed, and
- 10 Mr. Mosby would have made the recommendation of what
- 11 his rating is and that includes prior to the OLR and
- 12 that would include during the OLR.
- 13 Q. In 2015 after the OLR before Haydar was
- 14 terminated, are you aware of any issues that arose that
- 15 provided grounds for discharge?
- 16 A. I'm sorry. Can I go back one question?
- 17 Q. Sure.
- 18 A. The notes in front of me here show
- 19 a date --
- Q. You're looking at Exhibit 7 --
- 21 A. I'm looking at Exhibit 7.
- 22 Q. -- Page 3640 -- Bate stamped --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- 3649?
- 25 A. Yes. I think the date on here looks like

- 1 it's inaccurate. It says notes from Q1 2015
- 2 Marketplace OLR. That would not have taken place in
- 3 February of 2014. So I think this is another -- I
- 4 quess this would be another thing that I see on here
- 5 that looks inaccurate on here. I'm guessing the
- 6 actual date was February 10th, 2015, because that
- 7 would be the Q1 2015 OLR.
- 8 Q. Thank you. That makes sense. In which
- 9 case it was two and a half years ago, not three and a
- 10 half years ago?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- A. And I'm sorry; I interrupted your
- 14 question. Would you mind repeating it again?
- MR. NACHT: Connie, thank you.
- 16 (Question on Page 144, Lines 13
- 17 through 15, read by the
- 18 reporter.)
- 19 THE WITNESS: My understanding of the process
- 20 after the OLR is the performance review was delivered to
- 21 Abdullah and that Derek and Garret worked with Abdullah
- 22 on a performance improvement plan and engaged in a
- 23 process to help Abdullah turn around his performance and
- 24 be successful.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. Did you have any conversations with Derek
- 2 Oehler or e-mails with Derek Oehler about Mr. Haydar
- 3 that you can recall?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Your contact was Beary in 2015?
- 6 A. Mike was my -- my HR leader, correct.
- 7 Q. And Simpson was between you and Gaw?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Joel Mosby, do you know the guy?
- 10 A. I do know Joel Mosby.
- 11 O. He was with the SSA team for a while. Do
- 12 you remember that?
- 13 A. I'm not familiar with SSA team, but he's
- 14 certainly been on the Marketplace team the entire time
- 15 he's been at Amazon.
- 16 Q. He supervised a manager named Brian Powell?
- 17 A. I don't -- I don't know.
- 18 O. You've never heard the name Brian Powell?
- 19 A. I have not.
- Q. Do you remember that Joel's team was not
- 21 meeting project and operational goals in 2011, 2012?
- 22 A. I don't.
- 23 Q. Do you remember expanding Joel Mosby's
- responsibilities in 2013 with the OLP team?
- A. I didn't.

- 1 Q. Who did?
- 2 A. Whoever was responsible for Joel and that
- 3 part of our business.
- 4 Q. Did you approve putting Mosby in a position
- 5 to manage other L7s including Mr. Haydar?
- 6 A. I don't believe there would have been a
- 7 need to ask me for approval and I wouldn't have
- 8 participated in the process.
- 9 Q. Were you aware of what was going on with
- 10 the seller central team in 2014?
- 11 A. Can you be more specific?
- 12 Q. Yes. For a time it was not meeting project
- 13 operations or hiring goals, right?
- 14 A. I don't know that to be true.
- 15 Q. You've testified you weren't aware of
- 16 Haydar's goal performance, right?
- 17 A. That would be accurate. I'm aware of
- 18 the -- of the performance rating he received which I
- 19 believe was achieves and achieves the two years for
- 20 his -- for his performance rating. I would be aware
- 21 of that, but I'm not aware of his goals and
- 22 performance against those goals.
- Q. Why reorganize him in December '14 if you
- 24 were not aware of Haydar's performance?
- 25 A. I didn't reorganize him.

- 1 Q. Who did?
- 2 A. I don't know.
- 3 Q. You believed Mosby to be doing well in
- 4 2014?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. Are there particular things that occurred
- 7 under his watch that you remember that gave you that
- 8 opinion?
- 9 A. I wouldn't have been close enough -- close
- 10 enough to his performance other than the feedback I
- 11 received from Avi Saxena who he worked for.
- 12 Q. Did you ever hear anything from Stefan
- 13 Haney about Mr. Haydar?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Tell me, please.
- MR. NACHT: Assume -- please, give me a
- 17 continuing please for all of my questions, Counsel.
- 18 THE WITNESS: Noted.
- I recall only one conversation, and I recall
- 20 Stefan indicating that there was a large problem in the
- 21 organization with what should have been a routine
- 22 transfer of an employee and that trust was broken and
- 23 teams were not -- were not able to work with Abdullah
- 24 effectively.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. Who did Stefan report to at the time he
- 2 told you that?
- 3 A. I don't recall. Yeah, I don't recall.
- 4 Q. He didn't report to you directly?
- 5 A. I don't recall the timing. There was a
- 6 period of time that he did report to me, but there was
- 7 a longer period of time he reported to either Mark
- 8 Mitchke or other folks on our team, so it could have
- 9 been -- I don't know which time period it was.
- 10 Q. Did that affect your assessment about
- 11 Haydar's performance?
- 12 A. It sounded like a relatively trivial issue
- 13 that I would have expected the leaders on my team to
- 14 handle with ease and joy. I was disappointed to hear
- 15 that something as routine as an employee transfer
- 16 would erupt into something that sounded like it was a
- 17 bigger problem on our team, and I was disappointed
- 18 that that could happen.
- 19 Q. Were you frustrated with Mosby?
- 20 A. I want our team focused on serving
- 21 customers and innovating. Anytime I hear that our
- team is focused on not being able to work well
- 23 together, it means that they're not focused on serving
- 24 customers and innovating. And anyone who would have
- 25 been not serving customers and innovating, I would

- 1 have -- I would have want them to focus on serving
- 2 customers and innovating.
- 3 Q. Haney was on the business side in Detroit,
- 4 right?
- 5 A. No, that's not correct.
- 6 Q. What side was he on?
- 7 A. He was a product leader here in Seattle.
- 8 Q. He was a product leader here in Seattle and
- 9 he was getting technical needs met by Mosby's people in
- 10 Detroit?
- 11 A. I don't know that. I don't -- I don't
- 12 remember the -- which teams were owned by whom and who
- 13 they were working together.
- Q. Well, at some point did you become aware
- 15 that Abdullah Haydar was on a team, was a manager of a
- 16 team under Mosby's leadership and that it was Haydar
- 17 who wanted the transfer of the employee? Did someone
- 18 make you aware of that?
- 19 A. I became aware that the perception of
- 20 Stefan was that Haydar had broken trust and lost trust
- 21 with the product and technical teams that he was
- 22 required to work with over this transfer of the
- 23 employee, and that's about the extent of my
- 24 understanding of the situation.
- Q. If Haydar reported to Mosby and Mosby

- 1 reported to Simpson and Haydar is not in that chain of
- 2 command, did you direct Simpson or Mosby, Deal with
- 3 this?
- 4 A. I would have -- I would have made sure
- 5 that Ian Simpson was aware of it and I would have
- 6 asked him to get involved and resolve it so that the
- 7 teams could get back to focusing on customers and
- 8 innovation. And I -- and I -- that was the only
- 9 participation in that event I had. I don't want to be
- 10 involved in that event. I want to know that people
- 11 are going to focus on serving customers and focusing
- 12 on innovation.
- 13 Q. You never asked Abdullah Haydar his side of
- 14 the story?
- 15 A. I didn't ask Abdullah Haydar his side of
- 16 the story or anybody else their side of the story.
- 17 Q. Did it assess -- did it affect -- the
- 18 hearing that from Haney, did it affect your assessment
- 19 as to whether Abdullar -- Abdullah Haydar was failing
- 20 to work his way effectively out of the performance
- 21 improvement plan?
- 22 A. I don't know the timing.
- MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Sorry.
- MR. WOLFF: Go ahead.

Case 2:16-cv-13662-LJM-SDD ECF No. 62-46 filed 12/28/17 PageID.3356 Page 152 of Page 152 1 THE WITNESS: Were you going to say 2 something? 3 MR. NACHT: You think it assumes a chronology that's not right? 4 5 MR. WOLFF: Yeah, but I think he was 6 addressing that. 7 THE WITNESS: I was going to say the same thing. I don't think that chronology is right, but... 8 BY MR. NACHT: 9 10 Okay. When did you hear about this from Ο. 11 Haney? 12 I -- it would have been after -- after the incident blew up into this problem, but I don't -- I 13 don't recall the timing. 14 15 But before performance improvement plan? 16 Yes, that's my recollection. 17 0. Around the time of the OLR that we just 18 read the notes about? 19 I don't think so. Α. 20 You think it was before that? Ο. 21 Α. I do. 22 So you went into the OLR in early 2015 with 23 that incident in your head?

Incorrect. 24 Α.

25 Q. Okay. Why?

- 1 A. Because I wouldn't come into an OLR
- 2 thinking about an incident that happened a couple
- 3 months ago as a primary piece of input into discussing
- 4 the talent of our team.
- 5 Q. Haney was with Amazon for a number of years
- 6 and you actually saw him a fair amount in 2015, right?
- 7 A. I think you asked how many times would I
- 8 have interacted with him in 2015. I don't remember
- 9 the number I gave earlier, but I would have seen him
- 10 more than five times that year, yes.
- 11 Q. And you had known him a number of years?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. Haney -- let me ask you this: If Haney's
- 14 perception that Haydar was a real problem and that it
- 15 was impairing the effectiveness of the team's working
- 16 together, if that was going to be an -- an issue that
- 17 was significant in affecting Abdullah Haydar's ratings,
- 18 that one incident, then it should have been
- 19 investigated to get Haydar's side of the story, right?
- 20 A. I don't know that that incident had any
- 21 impact on Abdullah's ratings.
- Q. Okay. And since it's just one incident
- 23 from one peer, it wouldn't strike you as it ordinarily
- 24 would?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection. Form. I didn't

- 1 understand the question.
- THE WITNESS: Could you clarify the question?
- 3 MR. NACHT: Could you please repeat it?
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 (Question on Page 153, Lines 22)
- 6 through 24, read by the
- 7 reporter.)
- 8 THE WITNESS: I don't know what "ordinarily
- 9 would" means.
- 10 BY MR. NACHT:
- 11 Q. In -- in determining the performance rating
- 12 of an L7?
- 13 A. I don't determine the performance ratings
- 14 for L7s on our team, and I don't know whether Joel
- 15 Mosby would have used this incident as an input into
- 16 his performance ratings for Abdullah.
- 17 Q. One way in which unconscious bias can
- 18 affect us is that we are less patient about a
- 19 particular behavior in a person from a particular
- 20 background than we might be with the identical behavior
- in a person from different backgrounds?
- 22 A. I don't know that to be true. Are you
- 23 asserting that?
- Q. I'm -- it's a perfectly reasonable
- 25 response.

- 1 You've never noticed that in other people?
- 2 A. We don't label people on their
- 3 backgrounds.
- 4 Q. Not Amazon, just you in life as an American
- 5 for the last 50 years. You've never noticed that
- 6 sometimes people just hear -- hear the same words or
- 7 see the same conduct? How about gender? You ever
- 8 notice sometimes that younger employees in particular
- 9 may have a harder time hearing something from a female
- 10 boss than from a male boss? Isn't that something
- 11 you've noticed as a manager over the years?
- 12 A. No, no. I think -- I think your -- your
- description of stereotypes is completely inappropriate
- in a professional environment. We focus on people for
- 15 who they are and we treat people like we would want to
- 16 be treated, and I want people not to label me. I want
- 17 them to value me for who I am and the contribution I
- 18 make, and that's how we think about people. We don't
- 19 think about them per labels.
- Q. But how do we root out unconscious bias if
- 21 we're not at least aware that it exists? You -- you --
- 22 you talked about an awareness of it.
- 23 A. Well, I -- I view unconscious bias as
- 24 being different than the comment you made a minute ago
- 25 that sounded to me derogatory about women leaders or

- 1 something. That's how I interpreted your comment.
- 2 Q. No, no, no, no.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. My point is -- is exactly the opposite,
- 5 it's that -- is that it's harder sometimes for younger
- 6 employees to hear with patience and respect the exact
- 7 same words from a woman as they do from a man
- 8 sometimes?
- 9 A. I disagree.
- 10 Q. You've never seen this --
- 11 A. I think --
- 12 Q. -- phenomenon?
- 13 A. I think the statements you're making to me
- 14 sound outrageous. We don't judge people on their age.
- 15 We don't judge people on their gender. We judge
- 16 people for who they are and their performance against
- 17 the leadership principles, period.
- 18 Q. Have you ever seen an example of someone
- 19 making a comment about someone and you thought they
- 20 were being -- they were just out of line?
- 21 A. In my time at Amazon?
- 22 Q. Yeah.
- 23 A. No.
- Q. How many years have you been there?
- 25 A. 11.

- 1 Q. And you've never heard anyone talk about
- 2 someone in a way that you felt, Gee, I feel like
- 3 they're bringing bias into the situation?
- 4 A. One of the reasons I love Amazon and I
- 5 really love how -- the fit for me -- for the -- for
- 6 the culture being a fit for me is it's not political.
- 7 People focus on the individual. They focus on what
- 8 that person can contribute. People don't talk about
- 9 other people like you're describing. To me that has
- 10 no place in a professional environment. It may exist
- in other professional environments, but it's
- 12 completely unacceptable for that to exist in our kind
- 13 of environment.
- People may disagree about how best to serve
- 15 customers, but people don't talk about each other in a
- 16 way that you're describing.
- 17 Q. So the question is, if there exists a thing
- 18 called unconscious bias then -- and we don't talk about
- 19 the ways in which unconscious bias may affect the way
- 20 certain people view other people through a lens, then
- 21 how do we eliminate unconscious bias?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection. It seems awfully far
- 23 afield of any facts that are in dispute in this case or
- 24 any factual dispute that's likely to lead to the
- 25 discovery of admissible evidence.

- 1 Do you have an opinion of how we deal with
- 2 unconscious bias if we don't acknowledge that it exists?
- 3 THE WITNESS: Well, the -- the -- no, I don't
- 4 have an opinion. The step I took was to bring in the
- 5 person who's an expert on unconscious bias and have them
- 6 meet and present to my leaders, and we were the first
- 7 leadership team to do that at Amazon, and I think that's
- 8 a -- that's a step in the right direction.
- 9 But your question sounds very broad and very
- 10 ambiguous about something that's -- I think you called it
- 11 earlier an issue that exists across all human beings, so
- 12 I can't really comment on how to solve it across all
- 13 human beings.
- 14 BY MR. NACHT:
- 15 Q. How many direct reports do you have?
- 16 A. 11.
- 17 Q. And how many of them are women?
- 18 A. Three.
- 19 Q. And how many of them are people of color?
- 20 A. I -- I don't know the answer to that.
- 21 Q. If you created an impression among
- 22 Mr. Mosby and Mr. Gaw that you thought someone was not
- 23 a good fit for Amazon, do you think they would listen
- 24 to that and take that seriously?
- 25 A. I wouldn't create such an impression.

- 1 Q. Creating an impression inherently involves
- 2 affecting someone else's state of mind, right?
- 3 A. I haven't thought about what an impression
- 4 is very deeply but that sounds reasonable.
- 5 Q. Remember we were talking about car
- 6 accidents earlier?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And I said a person in a deposition might
- 9 say, I would never cause a car accident?
- 10 A. I remember you saying that, yes.
- 11 Q. And I want to go back to that. If I were
- 12 to ask you directly, Would you ever have a car accident
- in the future, what's your answer?
- 14 A. I would not like to have a car accident in
- 15 the future.
- Q. Right. But you can't state under oath that
- 17 you would never have a car accident in the future,
- 18 right?
- 19 A. You can't state under oath a prediction
- 20 about the future, correct.
- Q. You also could state, you could state your
- 22 opinion that you never intentionally caused a car
- 23 accident, right?
- A. I guess you're losing me a little bit
- 25 here. The car accident doesn't seem like an analogy

- 1 that I understand very well.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. So opinions don't -- opinions don't cause
- 4 car accidents, so I can't really relate to that.
- 5 Q. Okay. I know you've got great analytical
- 6 skills so what I'm asking here is not very complicated.
- 7 I'm sure your analytical skills vastly exceed my own.
- 8 We know that in a population there are going to
- 9 be a certain number of car accidents, right?
- 10 A. We know that there will be car -- we
- 11 believe there will be car accidents every year, yes.
- 12 Q. Until all of our cars are run by you guys.
- So we also know that except for a few very
- 14 strange people, people aren't trying to create car
- 15 accidents, right?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. But a person may have experienced some car
- 18 accidents which they view as not their fault, right?
- 19 A. Someone could be in a car accident and
- 20 view the car accident as not their fault, yes.
- 21 Q. And someone else, the other person in the
- 22 other car or a police officer or a witness may think
- 23 it's their fault, right?
- A. I don't -- I don't want to speculate on
- 25 hypotheticals, but...

- Q. Well, I'm asking you to, so I'm asking
- 2 you --
- 3 A. I think that sounds theoretically
- 4 possible, yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. You ever been in a car accident,
- 6 sir?
- 7 A. Yes, I have.
- 8 Q. Okay. Was it your fault?
- 9 A. I don't recall.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. I don't believe so.
- 12 Q. Did you hit someone from behind?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Someone hit you from behind?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. You go off the road?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. All right. I don't really care about your
- 19 car accident. But you didn't think it was your fault?
- 20 A. I don't -- I don't remember thinking it
- 21 was my fault, correct.
- Q. And if I asked you what kind of a driver
- 23 you are, you might say, I'm a really good driver. In
- 24 fact, is that what you would say?
- 25 A. I would say I'm a good driver, yes.

- 1 Q. Yeah. It's very rare to meet someone who
- 2 says, I'm a pretty lousy driver. Bias exists in the
- 3 population, we discussed that?
- A. You -- you believe that, yes.
- 5 O. You believe it too?
- A. I -- I believe there is unconscious bias,
- 7 yes.
- 8 Q. And there is some people with intentional
- 9 bias out there, right?
- 10 A. I believe that might be true, yes.
- 11 Q. You think it might be true or you think
- 12 it's true?
- 13 A. I can't speak for those people, so it's
- 14 hard for me to say what's on their mind and how
- 15 they're feeling.
- Q. Well, you have an opinion -- you have an
- 17 opinion about what customers think? I mean, this is
- 18 what you do for a living in part, correct?
- 19 A. That is what I spend my time on. My
- 20 opinion is on what's important to customers and how do
- 21 we innovate. That's the time I spend. I don't spend
- 22 my time thinking about car accidents --
- 23 Q. Or bias?
- 24 A. -- for sure.
- 25 Q. Or bias?

- 1 A. I don't know. I -- I don't think of
- 2 people as bias. I think of people as people and I
- 3 think about what they bring and what they're capable
- 4 of doing.
- 5 Q. Has it -- let's just stick with the gender
- 6 thing for a moment because I don't think you understood
- 7 what I was asking before based on your reaction.
- 8 Let's take your entire professional career. Not
- 9 just Amazon. You can't think of a single incident
- 10 where some male reacted to something that a woman said
- or did and you had the impression, I think he's
- 12 reacting that way in part because of her gender?
- MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 14 You can answer it if you can.
- 15 THE WITNESS: No. That seems like a silly
- 16 scenario. I mean, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't think of
- 17 someone's reaction as ever being based on gender. That
- 18 seems -- I don't know. It doesn't seem focused on who
- 19 the person is. I view people for themselves as
- 20 individuals not for their gender or their reaction to
- 21 gender.
- 22 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. I've heard you say that --
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. -- and I appreciate that you would find it

- 1 outrageous that someone else would think that.
- 2 A. Yes. And I don't think about other people
- 3 thinking that.
- 4 Q. That's -- that gets at exactly what I was
- 5 trying to ask about. Now we're there.
- 6 You manage a team of people and there is bias in
- 7 the population whether it's unconscious or conscious.
- 8 Don't you go through an annual online training about
- 9 bias?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Isn't one of the things you've learned from
- 12 that online training that to be sensitive to the
- 13 possibility that bias could be influencing
- 14 decision-making, we need to sometimes ask questions?
- 15 A. Can you be more specific?
- 16 O. Sure.
- 17 If Haydar presents data that contradicts the
- 18 assessment of his performance, isn't it the company's
- 19 job to independently look into the validity of his
- 20 data?
- 21 A. I'm not aware of any data of Abdullah's
- 22 performance that's contrary to the two performance
- 23 ratings that he received while he was at Amazon.
- 24 THE WITNESS: I'm just planting the seed.
- 25 I'm not going to interrupt your topic. But on the

Page 165 transition to the next topic, I would love to have a bio 1 2 break, please. 3 MR. NACHT: Take it. 4 THE WITNESS: Okay. 5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off 6 record. The time is 12:16 p.m. 7 (Recess 12:16-12:37.) 8 (Exhibit No. 8 marked 9 for identification.) 10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the 11 record. The time is 12:37 p.m. 12 13 EXAMINATION (Continuing) 14 BY MR. NACHT: 15 Directing your attention to what's been marked as Faricy Exhibit 8, do you recognize this 16 document, sir? 17 18 Α. T do. 19 It's Bates stamp 415 and runs through 419. 20 Did you review this yesterday? I did. 21 Α. 22 And these are Anne DeCleene's notes of her 23 interview with you? 24 Α. Yes. 25 And you told her the truth, right? Q.

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- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. You took it seriously?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Did she accurately report what you said?
- 5 A. I don't have any reason to believe she
- 6 didn't.
- 7 Q. I want to ask you about some things in this
- 8 document. But before I do, Stefan Haney, his office
- 9 was right next to your office in Seattle for a couple
- 10 of years, right?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Was it close to your office?
- 13 A. We were on the same floor in 2009 and I
- 14 believe part of 2010, but in the building of Varzea he
- 15 was never sitting close to me and never sat close to
- 16 me in -- in Amelia either, the building we're in now.
- 17 Q. All right. Looking at Bates stamp 419, the
- 18 last page, the letter E about 12 lines down: "Do you
- 19 think Abdullah can be successful long term at Amazon?
- 20 "Answer: No.
- "Would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable if
- 22 he were to transfer to another team?
- "Definitely not."
- 24 You have no reason to believe that she
- 25 mischaracterized what you said, correct?

- 1 A. Correct. This interview took place
- 2 3/31/2015, yes.
- 3 Q. Abdullah Haydar had not yet been put on a
- 4 performance improvement plan, right?
- 5 A. I don't know what -- what the date of his
- 6 performance improvement plan was.
- 7 O. When was Abdullah terminated?
- A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. I thought that you had an open mind as long
- 10 as he was on a performance improvement plan, that if he
- 11 did a good job he could get off of it and remain at
- 12 Amazon?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- Q. Why didn't you say that?
- 15 A. That wasn't the question I was asked.
- Q. What was -- the question you were asked,
- 17 how is that different?
- 18 A. It's very different. The question here
- 19 was, "Do you think Abdullah can be successful long
- 20 term at Amazon?" When I see two straight years of
- 21 least effective performance ratings across, in my
- 22 opinion, a fairly large number of leaders that he
- 23 worked with and knew him well, that doesn't sound like
- 24 a very positive indicator from that data about his
- 25 ability to be successful long term at Amazon.

- 1 Q. Let's move on. Thank you.
- I want to talk about how you built teams. You
- 3 took over Marketplace when or did you create
- 4 Marketplace?
- 5 A. No, I took it over in I believe 2009.
- 6 That date may not be accurate, but it would be worth
- 7 checking, but I think it's 2009.
- 8 Q. How many teams were there?
- 9 A. I don't remember how many teams.
- 10 Q. Ballpark?
- 11 A. There was -- if people is helpful, there
- 12 was 40ish people.
- 13 0. 40?
- 14 A. 4-0.
- Q. And ballpark how many now?
- 16 A. 18,000.
- 17 Q. The number of people has increased
- 18 dramatically?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. Is it the fastest growing part of the
- 21 company?
- 22 A. I don't know that. It is a -- it is a
- 23 fast growing business, that I can say.
- Q. So we've got the identification of a -- of
- 25 an idea. Let's provide a marketplace for buyers and

- 1 sellers to interact, right, that's the main concept?
- 2 A. Yes.
- And then the sub ideas, books, books and
- 4 movies, clothing, these kinds of products, those kinds
- of products a couple years ago or you went into, what,
- 6 household products? You keep expanding the
- 7 Marketplace, the store is essentially offering the
- 8 auction house or the flea market is having different
- 9 sections in it where different kinds of items are sold.
- 10 Is that a fair analogy?
- 11 A. I -- I -- I don't think the
- 12 characterization -- you may have been trying to be
- 13 funny -- of flea market is correct. It would also not
- 14 be fair to say that the product categories have
- 15 expanded. The core product categories were there when
- 16 I took over this role. So books, music, movies, soft
- 17 lines, hard lines, consumables.
- 18 What you may have been referring to is we have
- 19 launched new marketplaces, and I think what you're
- 20 referring to was this launch of Amazon Home Services
- 21 which is a marketplace for services. So we have
- 22 expanded the number of marketplaces we offer
- consumers.
- Q. A flea market is, I guess, used goods and
- 25 these are new goods. But you also sell used goods,

- 1 too, right?
- 2 A. We sell new and used goods, new and used
- products on Amazon, yes.
- Q. So I was trying to imagine some physical
- 5 geographical place where buyers and sellers interact
- 6 rather than it just being the place is a reseller, a
- 7 distributor such as a store where the transaction is
- 8 between the consumer and the -- the store. I wasn't
- 9 trying to be funny. I was trying to just imagine where
- do you go where some people are buying and some people
- 11 are selling, but it's a physical geographical place and
- 12 maybe there isn't a good analogy.
- 13 What's the best analogy you can come up with?
- A. I don't think there is a good analogy.
- 15 It's unique because e-commerce doesn't have a physical
- 16 store limit, and so we have, you know, unlimited shelf
- space for entrepreneurs and small businesses to reach
- customers all over the world. It's awesome.
- 19 Q. And what are soft goods and what are hard
- 20 goods and what are consumables?
- 21 A. Consumables are beauty products, toiletry
- 22 products. Hard lines are any hard goods like toys,
- 23 sporting goods, electronics. Soft lines includes
- 24 apparel, shoes, luggage, et cetera.
- Q. And why does it make sense to break it out

- 1 into those three categories?
- 2 A. I don't know whether it does make sense to
- 3 break it out that way, but I wanted to address your
- 4 assertion that we had added those categories since I
- 5 took over. That would be incorrect. Those categories
- 6 existed on the Amazon Marketplace when I took over the
- 7 business.
- 8 Q. Okay. And the expansion has been partly
- 9 geographical to expand the sellers from different
- 10 countries?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And part of the expansion has been in
- 13 providing an additional technological services to make
- 14 the transaction easier for both seller and buyer?
- 15 A. I think broadly that's -- that would be
- 16 accurate, yes.
- 17 Q. How else? I mean, you've gone from 40 to
- 18 18,000 so there are a whole lot of people doing stuff.
- 19 What -- what else -- does everything they do fit into
- 20 one of those two categories or are there other things
- 21 they do?
- 22 A. Well, I guess the simplest way to describe
- 23 it is I own the Marketplace business end to end, and
- 24 that includes all of the functional areas of the
- 25 business, but it primarily focuses on how do we

- 1 support small businesses and entrepreneurs in being
- 2 very successful.
- 3 Q. So are many of those people involved in
- 4 storing and distributing the products?
- 5 A. We offer a product to small businesses
- 6 called fulfillment by Amazon, FBA. That team is not
- 7 part of my -- not part of my organization.
- 8 Q. And the warehouses where -- when an
- 9 independent seller sells to an independent buyer, it
- 10 just goes direct from the seller to the buyer, right?
- 11 A. That's one option.
- 12 Q. Is another option that Amazon hangs on to
- 13 it and distributes it?
- 14 A. Yes. That's the fulfillment by Amazon
- 15 product.
- 16 Q. And that's not your people either?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. So the people who work for Faricy aren't
- 19 warehouse people and truck drivers, correct?
- 20 A. I don't know if we -- if we have any
- 21 employees on my team who would be in warehouses or
- 22 part of delivery services like truck driving. It's
- 23 possible we do.
- Q. Give me some rough sense of the breakdown
- of what the people who work for you do, please.

- 1 A. They focus on the product and technology
- 2 and the support that helps small businesses and
- 3 entrepreneurs join Amazon and reach customers all over
- 4 the world and be successful.
- 5 Q. Right. But there are 40,000 of them, so
- 6 how many --
- 7 A. 40,000 of who?
- Q. Of people who work for you -- or 18,000.
- 9 I'm sorry, 18,000?
- 10 A. Yes, that's right.
- 11 Q. So the 18,000, how many people would you
- 12 say write code or fix code or supervise teams of people
- 13 that write code and fix code, ballpark?
- 14 A. 4,000.
- Q. Okay. And then what do the other 14,000
- 16 people do?
- 17 A. Product, support, sales if I were to make
- 18 it simple.
- 19 Q. So sales is selling to the small business
- 20 or large business community to get them to utilize the
- 21 Amazon Marketplace?
- 22 A. Recruitment would be a more accurate word
- 23 to describe the team, yes.
- Q. And I'm sorry. What else did you say
- 25 besides sales?

- 1 A. Product and support I believe I also
- 2 identified --
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. -- yeah.
- 5 Q. So support means I'm unhappy with what
- 6 happened and so I interact with Amazon about the -- the
- 7 transaction to get it fixed?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. What does support mean?
- 10 A. Support means we offer 24 by 7 coverage
- 11 helping support small, medium businesses and
- 12 entrepreneurs in any needs that they have in order to
- 13 serve customers effectively.
- Q. So Amazon Lending, is that part of you?
- 15 A. Amazon Lending is part of my team, yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. How many people work for Amazon
- 17 Lending?
- 18 A. I don't know.
- 19 Q. Ballpark? 500, a thousand?
- 20 A. Under 100.
- Q. Okay. What other kinds of support
- 22 functions do you provide to the community of sellers
- 23 and entrepreneurs?
- 24 A. Can you be a little bit more specific
- 25 because I told you we provide everything end to end.

- 1 So every tool, every product they use to run their
- 2 business on Amazon, we build and own.
- 3 Q. What kinds of tools? Give me a sense of
- 4 what's out there.
- 5 A. An example of a tool would be we build the
- 6 technology that businesses use to receive orders and
- 7 acknowledge the shipment of their order.
- 8 Q. And is that a -- so that's a kind of
- 9 software or is it software and hardware together?
- 10 A. It's software primarily.
- 11 Q. So a company could go to a variety of
- 12 software solution providers for that kind of service
- and you're in competition with them for that piece of
- 14 it?
- 15 A. No. I don't think that's accurate.
- 16 Q. Why not?
- 17 A. Because I don't think that people go see
- 18 other software providers for technology that they
- 19 would use on Amazon.
- Q. Oh, I see. It's only for the Amazon sales
- 21 component?
- 22 A. It's technology focused on serving orders
- 23 from Amazon customers in the previous example.
- Q. Okay. So if I make nuts and bolts and I am
- 25 selling my nuts and bolts to people who -- companies

- 1 who need nuts and bolts for their machines, I may sell
- 2 some of my nuts and bolts at conferences and some of
- 3 them where I have my own salespeople interact with my
- 4 traditional customers and then I sell some on Amazon
- 5 where companies perhaps in other countries can find me
- 6 to buy nuts and bolts?
- 7 A. Yes. As kind of a generic high level
- 8 example, that kind of exemplifies the kind of process
- 9 that takes place as part of the Marketplace.
- 10 Q. So do you have a lot of people who work for
- 11 you that learn about different markets so that tailored
- 12 services can be provided?
- 13 A. Can you be more specific on your example?
- 14 O. Sure. I mean it sounds like in order for
- 15 you guys to do your job well, you need to understand
- 16 something about the seller, customer relationship in
- 17 every market you're in?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And that is a lot of knowledge?
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. And that knowledge is not intuitive.
- 22 Markets are handled differently in all kinds of ways.
- A. I don't think so.
- Q. You think it is intuitive?
- 25 A. I think it is intuitive and I think the

- 1 needs of most customers are really similar across the
- 2 world. They're looking for great selection. They're
- 3 looking for great prices. They're looking for fast
- 4 delivery speeds. They're looking for things that have
- 5 Prime offers and so we understand what customers are
- 6 looking for. We also understand the needs of sellers,
- 7 and our goal is to help them be very successful at
- 8 serving those customers.
- 9 Q. How does Amazon Marketplace -- do you
- 10 charge sellers?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And are the buyer -- do the buyers pay
- 13 anything to Amazon or they just pay the sellers and
- 14 the...?
- 15 A. Buyers buy a product on Amazon and pay the
- 16 price for -- the product price and the shipping cost
- 17 if there is a shipping cost. Amazon publishes a rev
- 18 share and we take a share of the product sale and the
- 19 shipping as our fee.
- Q. And does -- do Amazon Prime memberships,
- 21 does some of that revenue go to Marketplace or not?
- 22 A. I don't know. I don't believe so.
- Q. Okay. So all of the revenue from Amazon
- 24 Marketplace is essentially a commission off of a sale
- 25 that occurs through your Marketplace you've created?

- 1 A. It is the rev share. I did not create the
- 2 Marketplace, but yes, it is the -- it is the business
- 3 that I'm grateful to lead at Amazon.
- Q. When I said "you," I meant Amazon --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- not you personally.
- 7 A. Amazon, yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. And Mr. Haydar worked as a software
- 9 development engineer manager, right?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. Which means he recruited and supervised
- 12 software developers, people who write code, in order to
- 13 respond to specific business needs?
- 14 A. Customer needs.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. I mean, everything is indirectly a customer
- 18 need. Some things are directly customer needs.
- 19 Customer need is a focus of the company, but I mean,
- 20 every company that exists has people who do things that
- 21 are less directly customer solving or customer facing,
- 22 right? There are people who solve internal problems
- 23 for the company, accounting, getting the buildings
- 24 built or allowing work to get done, the HR people, the
- lawyers, there are people who do things which may not

- 1 directly serve the customers, but they --
- 2 A. I don't agree.
- 3 Q. Oh?
- 4 A. I don't agree.
- 5 O. Tell me.
- 6 A. I think that all of the activities that we
- 7 make investments in are focused on serving customers
- 8 well, and if we make an investment in a building or in
- 9 a legal team or an accounting team, we care about how
- 10 much that investment is because we want all of our
- 11 investments to focus on things that have a very direct
- 12 and meaningful benefit to customers.
- 13 And so I think we -- we don't think of the
- 14 world as direct and indirect. We do think of this
- 15 leadership principle around frugality and this leader
- 16 principle for frugality is about focus the investment
- 17 you make on what makes customers most happy.
- 18 Q. Now, at one point Mr. Haydar was running
- 19 the Nudge team. Are you aware of that?
- 20 A. No, I'm not aware of that.
- 21 Q. So you don't really know what he did, do
- 22 you?
- 23 A. I know that he was a software development
- 24 manager, but I did not track the individual jobs of
- 25 all the individual people on my team, no.

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- 1 Q. How is the Nudge system working?
- 2 A. Today?
- 3 Q. Yes.
- 4 A. Well.
- 5 Q. How was it working in 2015?
- A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. When you made the statement to Ms. DeCleene
- 8 that you didn't think Haydar was going to work out or
- 9 was not likely to succeed, I don't want to put words in
- 10 your mouth, but whatever you said to her along those
- 11 lines, you did so without a knowledge of what Abdullah
- 12 Haydar had actually contributed to the company, fair?
- 13 A. No. That's incorrect.
- Q. Well, you know what his rating was but just
- 15 now you couldn't answer what his job was?
- 16 A. His rating is a reflection of the
- 17 contribution he made in that job.
- 18 Q. Have you ever given thought to how
- 19 customers review products and sellers?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Are rating systems -- why do they require
- 22 thought? Why isn't it just -- what thought is
- 23 required? Tell me.
- A. Can you be more specific in your question?
- 25 I'm not sure I understand.

- 1 Q. I've never given any thought to this --
- 2 A. Okay.
- 3 Q. -- question. I'm not even sure I have an
- 4 intelligent question to ask.
- 5 What should one think about in a rating system
- 6 of customers evaluating?
- 7 A. I don't know. I'd have to -- I'd have to
- 8 take time to think about it.
- 9 Q. Okay. Amazon provides a system for
- 10 customers to rate sellers?
- 11 A. They provide a system for customers to
- 12 rate products and for customers to give sellers
- 13 feedback and ratings as well, yes.
- Q. And Amazon also seeks customer feedback
- 15 about Amazon all the time, right?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Has the rating system of customers rating
- 18 sellers, has that improved over the years you've been
- 19 running Marketplace?
- 20 A. I believe so, yes.
- Q. Can you give me any examples of how?
- 22 A. No, I'm not as familiar with those, but I
- 23 do believe that we have a team dedicated to making
- 24 improvements on those.
- Q. Ratings of employees -- ratings of

- 1 employees are based on perceptions and they're based on
- 2 some objective facts, they're based on both, right?
- 3 A. The process we use for ratings is meant to
- 4 bring data for the performance rating, the leadership
- 5 rating and the growth potential. Those three together
- 6 result in the overall rating.
- 7 Q. But some of that data is perceptions?
- 8 A. Can you -- can you be more specific and
- 9 give me an example?
- 10 Q. Sure. I mean, a goal such as produce a
- 11 piece of software that works is an objective fact
- 12 that's measurable, right?
- 13 A. I agree.
- Q. Shows backbone but also -- what is it
- 15 before you commit?
- 16 A. Disagree and commit.
- 17 Q. But also disagree and commit, all we can
- 18 really do is ask people who interact with that person,
- 19 does this person show backbone and disagree and commit
- 20 and can you give any examples, right?
- 21 A. I disagree. I think we require for people
- 22 to have a view on how someone is doing on a leadership
- 23 principle for them to give a specific example of that
- 24 behavior. And with those specific examples, they act
- 25 as a set of facts that I think are very helpful so

- 1 that we can help people improve their performance.
- 2 Q. Do you think there's a subjective component
- 3 to the leadership principles?
- 4 A. By the time it results in a performance
- 5 rating, no.
- Q. Let's go back to analytical training. The
- 7 leadership principle data has not been subject to
- 8 reliability or validity analysis, right?
- 9 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand the
- 10 question.
- 11 O. I mean in other words, there's no -- there
- 12 are no studies that you can point to that demonstrate
- 13 that there's some kind of objective they're there that
- 14 the leadership principles accurately capture, it's a
- 15 belief you have, but you can't prove that, right?
- 16 A. We believe that being a principle-based
- 17 company is important to serve customers well and we
- 18 absolutely believe these leadership principles support
- 19 innovating, serving customers well and building great
- 20 teams.
- 21 MR. NACHT: Can you read the witness the
- 22 question, please?
- 23 (Question on Page 183, Lines 11
- through 15, read by the
- 25 reporter.)

- 1 THE WITNESS: It's a super confusing
- 2 question. The "they're there" I don't really understand
- 3 what you're trying to ask.
- 4 MR. WOLFF: Can you rephrase it for him?
- 5 MR. NACHT: Sure.
- 6 BY MR. NACHT:
- 7 Q. I know that you believe that the leadership
- 8 principles work?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And I know that Amazon has grown and been
- 11 very successful while it has those leadership
- 12 principles?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. I know that Marketplace in particular has
- 15 been very successful and grown while you have these
- 16 principles?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. But the leadership principles to the extent
- 19 that they purport to accurately measure something,
- 20 there are no studies by which one can say this person
- 21 objectively shows a certain amount of backbone but
- 22 disagrees and commits and our system accurately
- 23 captures that?
- A. I don't agree with you. I think the -- if
- 25 I go back to the Exhibit 1, for each leadership

- 1 principle, there are very specific examples of the
- 2 behavior required to be role modeled, to be highly
- 3 valued and for needs improvement. And so I think that
- 4 provides the level of specifics needed so that people
- 5 can develop a leadership rating that's tied to
- 6 something that's specific and factual.
- 7 Q. Do you think that the leadership principles
- 8 can ever be manipulated by a person or people who are
- 9 conducting reviews?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Have you ever been told that you need to
- 12 develop, maybe early in your career, some of your
- 13 leadership principles?
- 14 A. Have I been told that I have areas to
- 15 develop? Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. Can you give me an example?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. One of the areas I've been told I need to
- 20 develop is encouraging others to participate and
- 21 seeking feedback from others before I give my own
- 22 point of view.
- 23 Q. And you received that feedback early on in
- 24 your career at Amazon in connection with the leadership
- 25 principle?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. It came out of an annual review?
- A. I don't recall the discussion, but I do
- 4 believe it came out of an annual review, yes.
- 5 Q. Do you believe that in the time you've been
- 6 running Marketplace that any annual reviews have ever
- 7 been incorrect?
- 8 A. I don't have any reason to believe that.
- 9 Q. You're a very sophisticated man. You're
- 10 very well educated. You run a very powerful company.
- 11 You're a real thought leader. You travel in circles of
- 12 other thought leaders, but what I hear you testifying
- 13 to today is that in your organization there's no bias
- 14 and the ratings always work out. And that seems
- implausible based on the numbers of people in the
- 16 organization and human frailty. It's a human system,
- 17 we're on earth not heaven, even the best possible
- 18 systems are still designed by people and people are
- 19 flawed.
- 20 A. I don't believe your statement accurately
- 21 reflected my testimony today.
- 22 Q. Okay. How did I mischaracterize it,
- 23 please?
- A. You made --
- MR. WOLFF: Let's hear the question back so

- 1 you have it fresh in your mind.
- THE REPORTER: "You're a very sophisticated
- 3 man. You're very well educated. You are" --
- 4 MR. NACHT: That part?
- 5 THE WITNESS: Let's skip over that part.
- 6 MR. WOLFF: What, you were referring to him
- 7 and not me?
- 8 (Laughter.)
- 9 THE REPORTER: "...but what I hear you
- 10 testifying to today is that in your organization there's
- 11 no bias and the ratings always work out. And that seems
- 12 implausible" --
- 13 THE WITNESS: Hang on. Sorry. Can we take
- 14 each one of those one piece at a time?
- MR. NACHT: Please.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Sorry. Can you go through
- 17 them? After the -- the nice words to the part where he
- 18 was --
- MR. NACHT: Being a lawyer?
- 20 THE WITNESS: -- mischaracterizing the words
- 21 I had said throughout today. Could you just go through
- 22 each --
- THE REPORTER: Yep.
- 24 THE WITNESS: -- section of the phrase at a
- 25 time?

- 1 THE REPORTER: "...but what I hear you
- 2 testifying to today is that in your organization there's
- 3 no bias" --
- 4 THE WITNESS: Stop. I don't believe you
- 5 asked me if there's any bias, and I'm not aware of any
- 6 bias. That is accurate.
- 7 BY MR. NACHT:
- 8 Q. Okay. We'll do some follow-up in a bit but
- 9 let's keep going with this question because I
- 10 appreciate you breaking it down. Thank you.
- 11 THE REPORTER: "...and the ratings always
- 12 work out. And that seems implausible based on the
- 13 numbers of people in the organization."
- 14 THE WITNESS: So that sounds like your
- 15 opinion. I don't believe I said that.
- 16 BY MR. NACHT:
- 17 Q. That the rating -- I'm asking you if the
- 18 ratings, in your opinion, are always accurate?
- 19 A. I -- I believe there's a high integrity
- 20 process behind our ratings and I do believe our
- 21 ratings are accurate. For this case I believe the
- 22 two years' worth of ratings on Abdullah and the number
- of senior leaders that he worked for who attempted to
- 24 help him and coach him and mentor him, I believe that
- 25 those ratings are an accurate reflection of what they

- 1 believed his performance to be, and they believed his
- 2 performance to be least effective and least effective.
- 3 That's extremely unusual for anybody at Amazon, and
- 4 it's extremely unusual for anybody in the first
- 5 two years at Amazon, and it's even more unusual over
- 6 the number of leaders that he worked with.
- 7 Q. And all of those leaders worked for you or
- 8 worked for someone who worked for you?
- 9 A. They worked in my organization, correct.
- 10 Q. Did Abdullah Haydar rub you the wrong way
- with his e-mail on June 9th, 2013?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. It's all business, you had no personal
- 14 feelings about the man?
- 15 A. I don't have personal feelings about
- 16 business e-mails, no.
- 17 Q. But you had no personal like or dislike for
- 18 Abdullah Haydar, you're just trying to put a good team
- 19 together, right?
- 20 A. That question seems preposterous to me.
- 21 People don't have personal feelings about every work
- 22 e-mail they get. I get thousands of e-mails a day.
- Q. Not about the e-mail, about the man. You
- 24 had some interactions with the man.
- 25 A. I don't have -- I don't have any -- any

- 1 feelings about Abdullah. I don't know -- I don't know
- 2 Abdullah that well. I never did know him that well.
- 3 I still don't know him, so I don't have any -- I don't
- 4 have a point of view on Abdullah.
- I do have a point of view on anyone who has a
- 6 least effective performance rating and if they have
- 7 least effective performance rating two years in a row,
- 8 that performance is very poor performance.
- 9 Q. So the hypothesis that I will put to you is
- 10 that the performance rating is not an objective fact,
- 11 it is something which you influenced by your comments
- 12 and choices to the people who wanted to please you and
- in turn made bigger deals over things that were not as
- 14 big?
- 15 A. Incorrect.
- 16 Q. I understand that's your position but --
- 17 A. Those are the facts.
- 18 Q. -- I wanted to share with you --
- 19 A. Those are the facts. Those are -- that's
- 20 completely incorrect.
- Q. Okay. There are facts in this record that
- 22 we've discussed today that are inconsistent with your
- 23 contention that you had no input into providing
- 24 Abdullah Haydar a least effective rating?
- 25 A. That's incorrect.

Page 191 1 You dispute Mr. Joudrey's account? Q. 2 MR. WOLFF: Objection. We've been over this, David. 3 4 MR. NACHT: Okay. 5 MR. WOLFF: Several times. 6 MR. NACHT: Let's take a break. 7 MR. WOLFF: Okay. 8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off 9 record. The time is 1:20 p.m. 10 (Recess 1:20-1:27.)THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the 11 12 record in the continuing deposition of Peter Faricy. This is the beginning of Disc 4. The time is 1:27 p.m. 13 14 15 EXAMINATION (Continuing) BY MR. NACHT: 16 17 Before Simpson came on board, do you 18 remember a time where you had direct interaction about 19 the technical teams? 20 I'm sorry. Can you clarify the question? Α. 21 Yeah. You met with my client, Mr. Haydar, 0. to talk about technical issues before Simpson came on 22 23 board in the latter part of 2014? 24 Α. Incorrect. 25 You didn't meet with my client in August of Q.

- 1 2014 to do a technical deep dive 90-minute meeting
- 2 about SSA and SCA?
- 3 A. I don't -- I don't know about such a
- 4 meeting. It's possible that Abdullah could have been
- 5 part of a review that I did on technology and he would
- 6 have been in the room, but nothing that I recall.
- 7 Q. You -- if you can't recall the meeting,
- 8 then you don't recall making a comment to the effect
- 9 of, Are you treating your wife any better at such a
- 10 meeting?
- 11 A. I would never make a comment like that.
- 12 Q. Okay. Besides the one comment you made
- 13 which you think you made in a pub, is there any other
- 14 comment that you own making about Mr. Haydar's wife?
- 15 A. Your characterization is incorrect. I did
- 16 not make a comment. I did, as I mentioned earlier,
- 17 toast Abdullah and thanked him for his commitment to
- 18 travel across country every single week in order to
- 19 work at Amazon. I have never talked about Abdullah's
- 20 family ever.
- Q. I want to be very clear: You absolutely
- 22 deny under oath that you ever made a comment about his
- 23 wife ever?
- 24 A. If I -- if I in my toast said I'm grateful
- 25 that you fly across the country and leave your family

- 1 every day to come to Amazon, I may have said something
- 2 around those lines, but I would have never referred to
- 3 Abdullah's family for any other reason other than
- 4 thanking him in this toast.
- 5 Q. Is it a violation of the leadership
- 6 principle of disagree and commit to continue to push if
- 7 you believe you were treated unfairly and you're
- 8 escalating?
- 9 A. I don't know. I would need a more
- 10 specific example.
- 11 Q. Mr. Haydar.
- 12 A. What's your example?
- 13 Q. He escalated and raised e-mails about his
- 14 own review.
- 15 A. I'm not aware of such e-mails.
- Q. Well, you're aware that Shelly Cerio had
- 17 Ms. DeCleene initiate an investigation?
- 18 A. I am aware of that, yes.
- 19 Q. Did anyone ever inform you why there was an
- 20 investigation?
- 21 A. Shelly told me why there was an
- 22 investigation and told me the results of the
- 23 investigation.
- Q. Well, what did she tell you why there was
- 25 an investigation?

- 1 A. She said there was an investigation
- 2 because Mr. -- sorry, because Abdullah made claims
- 3 about the way he was being treated at Amazon.
- 4 Q. No more detail than that?
- 5 A. There might have been more detail, but I
- 6 don't recall.
- 7 Q. I'm going to go back to the question
- 8 because I didn't get an answer. Is an employee
- 9 complaining about his own unfair treatment that he
- 10 perceives to be unfair, can that ever be a violation of
- 11 the disagree and commit leadership principle?
- 12 A. I don't know. That's my answer.
- 13 Q. In your assessment?
- 14 MR. WOLFF: The act of escalation alone?
- 15 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. Why don't you know? You run this group of
- 17 18,000 people.
- 18 A. Because your question's not very clear.
- 19 Q. What -- what's unclear about it to you?
- 20 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- THE WITNESS: It doesn't make sense to me.
- MR. WOLFF: He told you he doesn't understand
- 23 the question.
- 24 THE WITNESS: It's a hypothetical question of
- 25 which you're asking for a very specific answer to a very

- 1 broad hypothetical question, and you're asking if
- 2 anything could be a violation at any time. It's a very
- 3 hypothetical question of which I don't believe there is a
- 4 specific answer.
- 5 BY MR. NACHT:
- 6 Q. Okay. I'm not trying to ask a hypothetical
- 7 question at this point. I'm trying to ask a real
- 8 question about Mr. Haydar believed that the performance
- 9 ratings he got were unfair and he contested those
- 10 ratings to HR, to his boss, to his -- he went up the
- 11 chain with HR. There was an investigation. He
- 12 continued to object. He wrote to Mr. Bezos.
- 13 A. I'm not aware of that process. I am aware
- of the performance ratings and the performance
- 15 improvement plan.
- Q. Well, you're aware that there was an
- 17 investigation?
- 18 A. I am aware there was an investigation.
- 19 Q. And you're aware that the investigation
- 20 followed him complaining?
- 21 A. I don't know what the allegations were
- 22 about, but I do know that he was making allegations
- 23 about something, yes.
- Q. So from what you know about what Mr. Haydar
- 25 did, and let's just limit it to that, did he do

- 1 anything which warranted criticism on the leadership
- 2 principle of disagree and commit?
- 3 A. I don't know. I wasn't his manager and I
- 4 think his manager would have been able to assess his
- 5 performance on those leadership principles.
- 6 Q. Is it ever appropriate to downgrade someone
- 7 on the leadership principle of disagree and commit for
- 8 contesting an evaluation of themselves that they
- 9 believe to be unfair?
- 10 A. I don't believe that happened.
- 11 Q. In this particular case?
- 12 A. I don't believe that happens at Amazon,
- 13 period.
- 14 O. Ever?
- 15 A. I can't speak for ever.
- Okay. But in Marketplace?
- 17 A. I don't believe -- I don't believe that
- 18 would be allowed to happen on my team.
- 19 Q. I understand that you're denying making
- 20 comments about Mr. Haydar's wife, in a joking or any
- 21 other fashion you're denying it?
- 22 A. Those -- I did not make any statements
- 23 about Mr. Haydar's wife in any fashion.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Correct.

Page 197 1 (Discussion off the written record.) 2 BY MR. NACHT: 3 Have you heard of a stereotype about Muslim Ο. or Arab men treating their wives in a way that's less 5 than good? 6 Α. No. 7 MR. NACHT: Can I look at the exhibits, please? 8 9 (Exhibit No. 9 marked 10 for identification.) 11 THE REPORTER: Number 9. 12 BY MR. NACHT: You've been handed Deposition Exhibit 13 0. No. 9, Faricy No. 9, Bates stamp 1914 to 1921. Do you 14 15 recognize this document? 16 Α. No. 17 0. Does it look like a business record? I'm not familiar with it. 18 Α. 19 Did you review this document yesterday? 0. 20 I don't recall if this is one I would have Α. 21 reviewed. 22 What does this document purport to be? Q. 23 Α. I don't know. 24 Q. Take a look at the first page. What does it say at the top? 25

- 1 A. Marketplace 2014 Q3 OLR.
- 2 Q. What date?
- 3 A. Thursday, October 2nd.
- 4 Q. Keep going.
- 5 A. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PST.
- 6 Q. Keep going across the top.
- 7 A. Conference room: U.S. Seattle Roxanne
- 8 05200 agenda-notes.
- 9 Q. And it lists you as an attendee?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. Now, would this be October 2nd in 2014 to
- 12 evaluate the third quarter of 2014?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. What?
- 15 A. This would have been the midyear OLR that
- 16 would evaluate employees from the previous full year
- 17 OLR up until this point.
- 18 Q. So you're looking at employees in your
- 19 group in 2013 and the first half or a little bit beyond
- 20 of 2014?
- 21 A. This is between the period of the Q1 OLR
- 22 and this OLR, whatever those dates would have been,
- 23 roughly it would have been March, April, May, June,
- 24 July, August, September.
- Q. Okay. So it doesn't involve the 2013

- 1 period?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. It's just the first chunk of previously
- 4 unreviewed time in 2014?
- 5 A. People -- yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. Now, on Page 1915 under L8 promotion
- 7 recommendations, it talks about Joel Mosby?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. It says, "The doc needs to match the great
- 10 work Joel is doing." Does that sound like something
- 11 you would have said?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. Who do you think said that?
- 14 A. I don't know.
- 15 Q. If we read somewhat down, and I would say
- 16 about -- about 10 lines up from the bottom, it says,
- 17 "Joel has turned around the performance of Abdullah."
- 18 Yes, did I say that right?
- 19 A. Yes, that's what's written here, yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you remember a conversation in
- 21 the context of promoting Joel Mosby where this subject
- 22 came up?
- 23 A. I do.
- Q. What do you remember about that
- 25 conversation, sir?

- 1 A. I remember people being happy. One, happy
- 2 that Joel was able to help Abdullah improve his
- 3 performance; and two, happy that Abdullah had improved
- 4 his performance.
- 5 Q. And on Page 1918, do you see the comment
- 6 about Abdullah?
- 7 A. I do.
- 8 Q. "Turning the corner doing very well,
- 9 responded well to feedback." Do you remember that --
- 10 did I read that accurately?
- 11 A. You did.
- 12 Q. Do you remember the conversation about
- 13 Abdullah?
- 14 A. I do.
- 15 Q. Does that accurately capture what was
- 16 stated?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Is there anything else you remember other
- 19 than what's written there?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. Who was on Joel Mosby's senior management
- 22 team at the time this was written?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Didn't it include Abdullah Haydar?
- A. I don't know.

- 1 Q. And how do you not know?
- 2 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- 3 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. With this document in front of you? It's
- 5 unclear to you?
- A. You're asking who was on Joel Mosby's
- 7 leadership team in October of 2014. No, I don't know
- 8 for certain who was.
- 9 Q. Okay. All right.
- 10 A. It does say that Joel has turned around
- 11 the performance of Abdullah.
- 12 Q. What does that tell you?
- 13 A. I think as I said before, I already
- 14 repeated. I think it's -- I thought it was people
- were happy for Joel and they were happy for Abdullah.
- 16 Q. No, what does it tell you about -- about my
- 17 question about whether Abdullah was on Joel Mosby's
- 18 team?
- 19 A. It doesn't necessarily tell me anything.
- 20 Joel could have been responsible for improving
- 21 someone's performance on his team or off his team. My
- 22 guess is that he was on his team, but I don't know
- 23 that for certain.
- Q. Your guess or that's your belief but you're
- 25 not positive?

- 1 A. I'm not positive. I don't know.
- 2 (Exhibit No. 10 marked
- for identification.)
- 4 THE REPORTER: Number 10.
- 5 MR. NACHT: This is -- we handwrote Bates
- 6 stamp 5572.
- 7 BY MR. NACHT:
- 8 Q. Not a whole lot going on on this page
- 9 because it's redacted. It was produced by Amazon.
- 10 August 17th, do you remember sending an e-mail to
- 11 Mr. Faric- -- to Mr. Beary, "Do we have an update on
- 12 Abdullah?"
- 13 A. I don't remember sending the e-mail, but I
- 14 do see the e-mail here.
- 15 Q. Is it consistent that -- what -- do you
- 16 believe you did it?
- 17 A. I do believe I sent this e-mail, yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. So a couple of things jump out at
- 19 me. First is that the subject is confidential and the
- 20 second is that when Beary forwards your e-mail to Derek
- Oehler, a big chunk is redacted presumably because it
- 22 concerns a bunch of lawyer involvement. That's the
- 23 only reason why. And there's a plan that's being
- 24 discussed.
- Were you aware of a plan for Abdullah other than

- 1 the performance improvement plan?
- 2 A. I don't know what kind of plan you're
- 3 referring to, but I was definitely aware that he was
- 4 on a performance improvement plan.
- 5 Q. How about a plan to manage him out?
- 6 A. I'm not aware of any such plan.
- 7 Q. Would that have been inappropriate because
- 8 he still could have succeeded on the performance
- 9 improvement plan?
- 10 A. I don't know -- I don't know the timing --
- 11 I do recall that he did not succeed in his performance
- 12 review plan, but I don't know what the dates of that
- 13 would have been.
- 14 Q. How do you succeed on a performance
- 15 improvement plan if the issues are earning trust, being
- 16 vocally self-critical and disagreeing and committing?
- 17 How do you succeed on that?
- 18 A. I would think you work with your manager
- 19 and you work with HR and you put together a plan that
- 20 allows you to demonstrate those leadership principles.
- 21 (Exhibit No. 11 marked
- for identification.)
- MR. NACHT: Thank you. What are we up to?
- THE REPORTER: 11.
- 25 BY MR. NACHT:

- 1 Q. Showing you what's been marked as Faricy
- 2 Deposition Exhibit 11. What is S-team? What does
- 3 S-team mean?
- 4 A. Senior team.
- 5 Q. And S-team direct means the person who
- 6 reports to someone on the S-team?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And then that -- so does the S-team approve
- 9 or just a particular S-team member approve all
- 10 promotions to Level 8?
- 11 A. The S-team approves all promotions to
- 12 Level 8.
- Q. So you approved this document to go to
- 14 Mr. Gunningham, correct?
- 15 A. I would have reviewed this document and
- 16 provided my feedback, which I think was reflected in
- 17 those OLR notes, yes, but Avi Saxena is the manager
- 18 for Joel Mosby, and Avi Saxena was the person who
- 19 would have presented the doc to Sebastian.
- Q. Saxena and his HR counterpart would have
- 21 drafted this thing?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And I don't see Bates stamp numbers
- 24 on this, but you --
- MR. HAYDAR: One of the copies had --

- 1 BY MR. NACHT:
- 2 Q. You -- you recognize this document?
- 3 A. I -- I don't remember it, but this looks
- 4 like Joel Mosby's promotion document.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- A. I could not tell you if this was the final
- 7 version or anything else, but this -- the title would
- 8 lead you to believe this is Joel Mosby's promotion.
- 9 Q. So there are problems in life where we --
- 10 we really try to solve them, and there are some
- 11 situations where we listen but we don't actually try to
- 12 solve them.
- 13 Since Mr. Haydar was reviewed as least effective
- 14 first once and then again and then put on a performance
- improvement plan, is it fair to say that you viewed him
- 16 as a problem you were hoping would solve?
- 17 MR. WOLFF: Objection.
- Were you hoping that whatever problems surrounded
- 19 Abdullah would solve.
- THE WITNESS: I was hoping that Abdullah
- 21 would improve his performance, yes.
- 22 BY MR. NACHT:
- 23 Q. So the alternate hypothesis is that you
- 24 didn't want him to succeed and that you engaged in
- 25 process and indicated to your people, Solve the problem

- 1 by managing him out? You reject that hypothesis,
- 2 you've made that clear with your testimony.
- 3 A. I believe that is incorrect what you just
- 4 said, yes.
- 5 Q. Let's take a minute and explore your heart
- 6 and think about your thoughts about Mr. Haydar when he
- 7 sent you that e-mail on June 9th, 2013, at the
- 8 different OLRs, when you heard from Stefan Haney about
- 9 him, just take a minute and really think.
- Is it possible that there were times where you
- 11 just wished he would go away?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Is there anything you might have done that
- 14 might have communicated that sense even if you didn't
- intend it to your directs who supervised Mr. Haydar?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Or to HR?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You don't remember meetings with Mr. Haydar
- 20 prior to Mr. Simpson coming into the role of
- 21 supervising Mr. Gaw, correct?
- 22 A. I don't remember -- obviously I do
- 23 remember meetings before Ian Simpson joined our team,
- 24 but I couldn't tell you the topics or the -- or the
- 25 people involved. We have a lot of meetings on a lot

- 1 of different topics.
- 2 Q. Okay. Now, do you remember when you
- 3 testified that the only comment you might have made
- 4 about Mr. Haydar's wife was as part of a toast and you
- 5 don't think you said anything about his wife or about
- 6 his family but you might have, but it was just a toast
- 7 thanking Abdullah at a pub.
- 8 Do you remember that?
- 9 A. I do.
- 10 Q. Am I accurately capturing your testimony?
- 11 MR. WOLFF: Objection. Asked and answered.
- Go ahead.
- 13 BY MR. NACHT:
- 14 Q. Yes?
- 15 A. It's already been answered I believe.
- 16 Q. So I want to direct your attention to
- 17 Faricy Exhibit 8. On the last page, Bates stamp 419,
- 18 at the top -- actually, let's -- it begins on the
- 19 previous page at the bottom of 418, and it states, "Can
- 20 you comment on the following or concerns ever brought
- 21 to your attention? A, allegedly made inappropriate
- 22 comments during a June 2013 off-site. Peter made AH
- 23 stand next to peer who was getting married soon and had
- 24 them recite lines that they could convey to their wives
- 25 to make them feel loved, allegedly done repeatedly at

- four-day off-site."
- 2 A. That's incorrect.
- 3 Q. "I do remember, not context."
- 4 Am I reading it correctly, what's written there?
- 5 MR. WOLFF: That's not his answer you're
- 6 reading, though. That's --
- 7 MR. NACHT: That's her question.
- 8 MR. WOLFF: Correct.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Her -- her question is, This is
- 10 what's being alleged and I'm saying that's incorrect.
- 11 BY MR. NACHT:
- 12 Q. Okay. But could you read literally what --
- 13 what her notes are and then we'll discuss it?
- MR. WOLFF: What her notes of his response
- 15 are?
- MR. NACHT: Yes.
- 17 MR. WOLFF: Starting with "I do remember."
- 18 THE WITNESS: "I do remember... not context."
- 19 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. Keep going, please:
- 21 A. "We had an off-site in Detroit... Dave
- 22 Anderson was about to get married... Dave asked a
- 23 question like, For people around the table who are
- 24 married, what is your advice... It was an evening
- 25 social event. I think Abdullah was at the same

- 1 table... Everybody gave their funny/serious advice."
- 2 Q. Keep going.
- 3 A. Number one, "It was a mixture of sweet and
- 4 funny advice." Number two, "Dave and his wife met on
- 5 our team."
- Q. And keep going on to the next page, please?
- 7 A. This is not my comment. This is an
- 8 allegation that Anne is asking about.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. "B, allegedly made similar comments at two
- 11 all-hands meetings in Detroit over past 12 months.
- 12 Lucky to hire AH... After he previously left his poor
- 13 wife behind and went to Seattle for a year."
- Q. And your answer to that allegation?
- 15 A. What's listed here as I is, "I might have
- 16 said something like, 'We're lucky to have you here --
- 17 'We're lucky to have someone here like Abdullah who
- 18 has Seattle experience.' And I might have said, 'I
- 19 bet your wife is happy too.'"
- Q. Okay. So earlier when I asked you -- you
- 21 mentioned the first incident but you denied that there
- 22 were any other incidents. Reading these notes, does
- 23 that refresh your recollection that you might have made
- 24 a comment consistent with what you told Ms. DeCleene at
- 25 another all -- at an all-hands meeting?

- 1 A. No. My comment was, We're lucky to have
- 2 someone here like Abdullah who has Seattle experience.
- 3 Q. But her notes on Bates stamp No. 419 say,
- 4 "And I might have said, 'And I bet your wife is happy
- 5 too.'"
- 6 Do you not remember that part or you deny saying
- 7 this to Anne DeCleene?
- 8 A. I don't -- I don't remember.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 THE WITNESS: Before you start a new topic,
- 11 can we do a bio break?
- MR. NACHT: Sure.
- THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off
- 14 record. The time is 2:06 p.m.
- 15 (Recess 2:06-2:10.)
- 16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the
- 17 record. The time is 2:10 p.m.
- 18 MR. NACHT: Mark this, please.
- 19 (Exhibit No. 12 marked
- 20 for identification.)
- MR. NACHT: I don't have copies of this yet
- 22 and we may not make this an exhibit.
- 23 /////
- 24 ////
- 25 /////

- 1 EXAMINATION (Continuing)
- 2 BY MR. NACHT:
- 3 Q. So I just sketched out some names, and
- 4 earlier I asked you if your office was next to Haney's,
- 5 but what I've sketched out is that your office was next
- 6 to HR and Haney's was on the other side of HR, and on
- 7 the other side of Haney was Curt, and on the other side
- 8 of Curt was Pete.
- 9 A. That's incorrect.
- 10 Q. That's incorrect?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. For 2014 or 2015, 2014?
- 13 A. Any of these years.
- Q. Okay. Was Haney along that row with you?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Okay. We won't make it an exhibit.
- 17 (Exhibit No. 12 unmarked
- for identification.)
- 19 BY MR. NACHT:
- Q. Did you ever meet with Mr. Haydar to help
- 21 him with his performance?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Did you find Mr. Haydar abrasive?
- A. I don't know. I didn't have enough
- 25 interactions with him to know enough about his --

- 1 enough to have a perception of his abrasiveness.
- Q. Have you been to any Arab countries?
- A. Can you define "Arab countries"?
- 4 Q. Well, as close as -- instead of giving you
- 5 a list, why don't you tell me any Middle Eastern
- 6 country you've been to?
- 7 A. I've been to -- let's see. I flew through
- 8 the Middle East on my way to India, and I don't
- 9 recall -- I think it may be --
- 10 Q. Dubai or something?
- 11 A. It was Dubai, yes.
- 12 Q. But you didn't spend time there, you were
- 13 just in an airport?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. Okay. Do you have any locations in the
- 16 Middle East for any of your people?
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 O. Israel?
- 19 A. I don't know.
- 20 Q. Do you -- did you lose any friends on
- 21 September 11th?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Is Shelly Cerio an honest person in your
- 24 experience?
- 25 A. Is Shelly Cerio an honest person?

Page 213 1 Yeah. Q. 2 Α. Yes. Derek Oehler? 3 Ο. 4 Α. What's the question about Derek? 5 0. Is he an honest guy in your experience? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Joel Mosby? Q. 8 Α. Yes. 9 Ο. Garret Gaw? 10 Α. Yes. 11 MR. NACHT: Let's take a break. We may be 12 done. 13 MR. WOLFF: Okay. 14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now going off the 15 record. The time is 2:16 p.m. 16 (Recess 2:16-2:21.) 17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're now back on the 18 record. The time is 2:21 p.m. 19 MR. NACHT: I have no further questions. 20 Thank you very much for your participation. 21 MR. WOLFF: And we will -- we will read. 22 Thank you very much. 23 (Discussion off the written record.) 24 MR. WOLFF: So we've agreed that the very limited portion of today's deposition that was marked 25

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Page 214
     confidential, Mr. Nacht just graciously agreed will be
 1
     attorneys' eyes only and we'll have that in a separate --
 2
 3
     separate document, in its own.
 4
                 MR. NACHT: Agreed.
 5
                 MR. WOLFF: Thank you. Thanks, David.
 6
                 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes the
 7
     deposition of Peter Faricy. This is the end of Disc 4.
     The time is 2:21 p.m.
 8
                       (Signature reserved.)
 9
10
                       (Deposition concluded at 2:22 p.m.)
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1	STATE OF WASHINGTON )		
2	) ss County of Snohomish )		
3	I, the undersigned Washington Certified Court		
4	Reporter, pursuant to RCW 5.28.010 authorized to Administer oaths and affirmations in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify:		
5			
6	That the annexed and foregoing deposition of PETER FARICY was taken before me and completed on July 28, 2017, and thereafter was transcribed under my direction;		
7	I further certify that according to CR 30 (e) the		
8	witness was given the opportunity to examine, read and sign the deposition after the same was transcribed, unless		
9	indicated in the record that the review was reserved;		
10	I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and that I am not		
11	financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;		
12	I further certify that the witness before		
13	examination was by me duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth;		
14	I further certify that the deposition, as		
15	transcribed, is a full, true and correct transcript of the testimony, including questions and answers, and all		
16	objections, motions and exceptions of counsel made and taken at the time of the foregoing examination;		
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this		
18	3rd day of August, 2017.		
19	Connie Recob		
20	Connie Recob, Certified Court Reporter No. 2631		
21	in and for the State of Washington,		
22	residing at Stanwood, Washington. My CCR certification expires 4/8/18.		
23			
24			
25			

Page 216 1 DEPOSITION ERRATA SHEET 2 Our Assignment No. 4590 3 Case Caption: HAYDAR vs. AMAZON 4 5 6 DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY 7 I declare under penalty of perjury 8 9 that I have read the entire transcript of my Deposition taken in the captioned matter 10 or the same has been read to me, and 11 the same is true and accurate, save and 12 13 except for changes and/or corrections, if any, as indicated by me on the DEPOSITION 14 ERRATA SHEET hereof, with the understanding 15 that I offer these changes as if still under oath. 16 17 Signed on the  $28^{tL}$  day of AU6UST, 18 19 20 21 22 PETER FARICY 23 24 25

	211		
		Page	e 217
1	DEPOSITION ERRATA SHEET		
2			
3	Page No. 90 Line No. 23 Change to: Replace "were0"		
4	with "were"		
5	Reason for change: Typographical error		
6	Page No. 129 Line No. 16 Change to: Replace "I" with "he"		
7			
8	Reason for change: <u>Incorrect pronoun</u>		
9	Page NoLine NoChange to:		
10			
11	Reason for change:		
12	Page NoLine NoChange to:	•	
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14	Reason for change:		
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17	Reason for change:		
18	Page NoLine NoChange to:		
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20	Reason for change:		
21	Page No. Line No. Change to:		
22			
23	Reason for change:		
24	SIGNATURE: Ph DATE: 8/28,	/17	
25	PETER FARICY		